

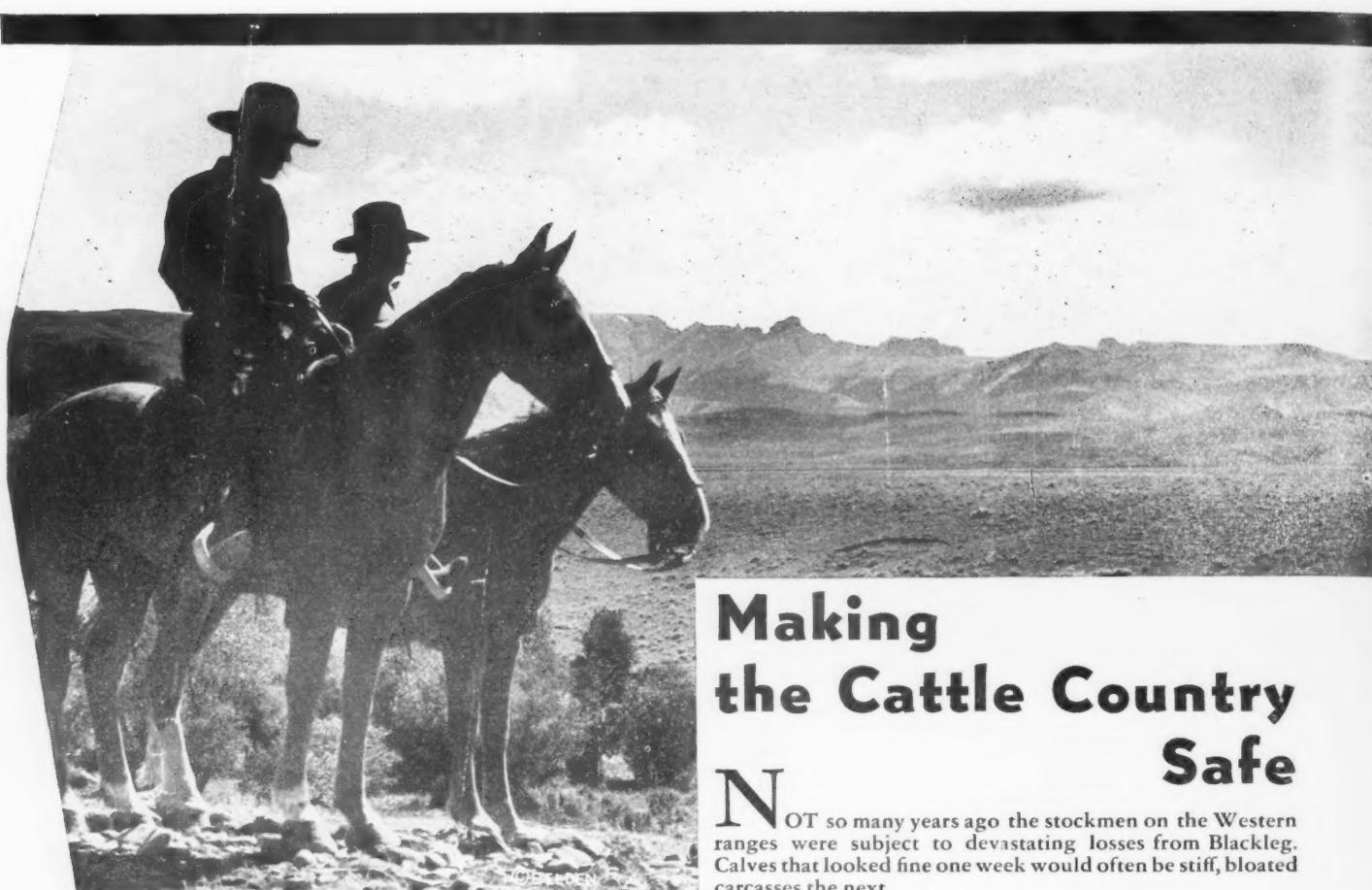
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SEPTEMBER, 1938



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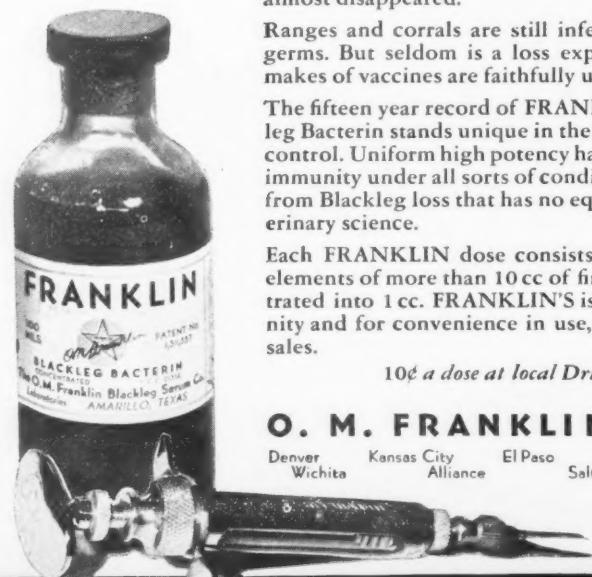
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Volume XX

SEPTEMBER, 1938

Number 4

THEY LOVE THEIR LAND AND LIVE STOCK

BY W. L. BLIZZARD

Stillwater, Oklahoma

LAST SUMMER I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY to spend a few weeks in Great Britain and Europe studying live stock. I attended the show of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, at Wolverhampton, the second week in July. There were a number of interesting things about this show. It was established in 1838. It is held in a different part of England each year, and in this way the show has a 13-year circuit and thus more people are able to see it. The royal show is held entirely for educational purposes and especially for the benefit of live-stock exhibitors. An admittance charge, varying in amount at different hours during the day, is made at the main gate. Each afternoon a program, consisting of parades of horses, cattle, and pigs, as well as some entertainment features, is held in front of the grandstand. I noted with particular interest the absence of side shows and gambling types of entertainment from the grounds.

Numerous Breeds Exhibited

There were a large number of breeds of live stock shown, distributed as follows: 12 breeds of horses, 21 breeds of cattle, 21 breeds of sheep, and 11 breeds of hogs. All live stock, except Percheron horses, were judged the first day. The Percherons were judged on the second day. No doubt this is done so that the visitors will have an opportunity to see the premium live stock on the following days of the show. Since all winners are labeled, it is not hard to locate them. A red ribbon is given for first place and a blue one for second place. There are liberal cash prizes offered in the various classes, with some of them amounting to as much as \$75

for first place. In addition to the live stock, there was a large exhibit of farm machinery and a very spectacular flower show.

The Royal Farms at Windsor, England, owned by the King, were represented in many of the breeds and won some of the highest honors, among which was first place in the aged Hereford bull class on one of the best bulls in the show. A special building is set aside for the use of the royal family while attending the show.

The live-stock classes were presented very much as they are in shows in the United States. The cattle classes, however, were judged at the walk nearly two-thirds of the time. All showing attendants were dressed alike in white uniforms. The two-judge system is used in most of the breeds of cattle—one judge for the bulls and another for the females,

with both of them working together on the champions. I noted that in the breeding classes the cattle were possibly not shown in so high condition as we find in a good many classes in this country. Nevertheless, the cattle seemed to show a wealth of natural flesh. The coats on the cattle were shown smooth, as there is very little hair on the cattle at that time of the year.

Two Thousand Years Old

While in England, I of course visited Herefordshire. I found it to be very rolling and picturesque. In fact, one of the most attractive views of rural England may be found in Herefordshire. The name Hereford comes from an Anglo-Saxon word of Roman origin, and the town of Hereford is located where the army forded the River Wye during the days of the Roman Empire. The town of Hereford is over 2,000 years old. There were about 100 breeders of purebred Herefords in this locality. The breeders also raise a variety of crops, and hops are generally included. Grass is largely depended upon for the maintenance of the cattle, but I also found that this grass is quite extensively supplemented by cake, oats,



Cattle parade at English Royal Show



Herefords on pasture in Herefordshire, England

and row crops for the production of cattle. The people in Herefordshire seemed to be enjoying a period of prosperity.

Several other live-stock shows are held throughout Great Britain during the summer months. One of the outstanding shows is the Royal Northern Agricultural Show at Aberdeen, Scotland. I attended this show and found exceptional exhibits of Clydesdale horses, Shorthorn and Aberdeen-Angus cattle, as well as some excellent classes in the fat-stock division.

Edinburgh One of Island's Big Marts

While in Scotland, I also visited the city of Edinburgh, and found that one of the largest live-stock markets in Great Britain is located there. At this market, commission firms handle all classes of live stock, but they are sold at auction, and, although the animals are weighed before going into the ring, they are sold by the head.

I had the pleasure of a visit with Walter Biggar, who lives at Castle Douglas, Scotland, and who will be remembered by many in this country for his judging work at the International Live Stock Exposition. I also had an opportunity to visit several other establishments prominent in the history of Shorthorn cattle. On all the farms I visited I was impressed by the fact that each bull I saw showed ruggedness, sturdiness, and the ability to mark good calves.

I found England and Scotland especially well adapted to live-stock raising. I was very much impressed with the climate and with the abundance of stock water. Wonderful pastures may be found everywhere throughout England and Scotland. The climate is ideal. It is possible to feed young cows and calves on grass, as they can be kept outside during the summer period. There is very little intense heat and there are no flies. Probably the most outstanding factor in live-stock raising in England is the people themselves, with their great love for their land and their live stock.

Third and fourth generations may still be found on a farm. I also had a feeling that the part the King plays in agriculture and live-stock raising has a very stabilizing influence upon the live-stock people.

Homes of the Percheron and Belgian

Some time was also spent in the horse breeding sections of France and Belgium. I found the Perche, or the home of the Percheron horse, quite interesting. The division is about 55 miles wide and 65 miles long. The country is rolling and most of the land is in grass—as good grass as will be found anywhere. All fences are either hedges, stone walls, or board or plank fences—no barbed wire fences at all.

The French farm is an interesting study. The buildings are usually of stone and stucco and are arranged in a quadrangle. On one side will be the house, on another the barn, with a

manure pile near by, on another side will be the cattle, and on the fourth side will be the storage sheds. The opening is usually at one corner of the square, and quite often a pond, used for watering the live stock, may be found within the square. Oftentimes, a cage of dogs will be seen in one corner of the square.

Belgium is, of course, the native home of the Belgian horse. It is a country about half the size of Iowa, with three times the population. Some areas of Belgium are slightly rough and some are sandy, but the most part of the land is well adapted for grass, field crops, some grain, beets, and flax. This, together with the climate, has assisted materially in developing this good breed of horses. Most of the farms are small, but the Belgian breeders are quite liberal feeders and they make extensive use of available grain and field crops.

CATTLE LIKE GRAZING ON "PERMANENT WAVES"

CATTLE ON SOME HILLSIDE PASTURES are going in for contour grazing on the "permanent waves" plowed into pasture lands to conserve soil and moisture. Soil Conservation Service workers admit that the cows are not influenced by the merits of contour ridges or furrows but are merely grazing where the grass grows the longest and juiciest.

In the semi-arid southern Great Plains, the growth of grass depends on moisture available. Contour furrows or ridges in a pasture have the effect of a long, twisting embankment or low dam to hold rain water, giving it a chance to soak into the soil.

Contour furrowing is one of the basic



A profile of the soil reveals where the moisture is located. The dark area has been made moist by rain and snow. Penetration has been about three times as great in the furrows where the water was held.

principles of the Soil Conservation Service program for range improvement. Demonstrations of the value of this practice are being made at many points in the West, and hundreds of ranchers and farmers have learned the value of contour furrowing and now are treating their own range land, the service reports.

Furrows or ridges are constructed at regular intervals, depending upon the degree of slope and type of soil. They catch and hold most of the rain water where it falls and allow the moisture to seep into the ground to become available for grass growth. Farmers have ob-

1. Which method requires the least amount of grain to finish calves?

2. Which method returns the greater profit per cow?

3. Will this method offer an opportunity of realizing as much net return for the heifer calves as for the steer calves?

The calves from the experimental herd of 20 grade Hereford cows were divided as evenly as possible as to number, age, weight, and kind of dam into two lots and were grazed with their dams under similar conditions of pasture, water, and shade. The heifer



Contour furrows, winding like ribbons around a hillside pasture, catch and hold moisture from rains. With this water soaking into the soil to aid grass growth, improvement may be expected on the range lands.

served that the first green grass appears along the furrows where additional moisture has been available. The farmers also observed that the grass growth is much heavier along the furrows and remains green longer than that on untreated areas.

Various types of tillage implements are being used by ranchers and farmers in furrowing their pastures, but all serve the same purpose of catching and holding the water on the land where it falls and storing the moisture in the soil to benefit grass growth.

Grazing control on contour furrowed land is essential to obtain a good vegetative cover, the Soil Conservation Service points out. Where pastures are furrowed, not only is a heavier growth of grass developed, but a seed crop is matured which may be expected eventually to produce a thicker and heavier sod.

WHAT ARE THE PROFITS IN CREEP FEEDING?

BY BRUCE R. TAYLOR

OUR OBJECT WAS TO STUDY the effect of feeding grain to heifer calves while they were nursing their dams as compared with feeding no grain to steer calves while nursing where both lots of calves were to be full-fed in the dry lot after weaning. It is hoped the study will answer these questions:

calves had access to grain, in a self-feeder placed in a creep, throughout the summer, whereas the steer calves received no grain while nursing. All calves were weaned on October 5 and placed in separate lots where the steer calves were full-fed for 183 days and the heifer calves for 133 days.

A comparison of non creep-fed steer calves and creep-fed heifer calves in the creep-feeding phase of the test is as follows (first figure refers to non creep-fed steers; second, creep-fed):

Number of calves per lot—9; 9.

Average birth date of calves—March 15; March 16.

Average initial weight (June 17)—237 pounds; 239 pounds.

Average final weight (October 5)—392 pounds; 435 pounds.

Average gain per calf—155 pounds; 196 pounds.

Average daily gain per calf—1.40 pounds; 1.77 pounds.

Total feed consumed per calf—none; 76.99 pounds of ground corn, 8.22 pounds whole oats, 15.89 pounds wheat bran, and 6.22 pounds cottonseed meal.

Feed cost per calf—none; \$1.71.

Appraised value per cwt. at weaning time—\$8.50; \$10.

Value per calf at weaning time (weight reduced 3 per cent for customary shrink)—\$32.30; \$42.20.

Cow cost per calf (100 per cent calf crop)—\$18; \$18.

Cow cost plus feed cost to produce calf—\$18; \$19.71.

Return per calf over cow cost plus feed cost—\$14.30; \$22.19.

Feed prices used: corn, \$1; oats, 27 cents; bran, \$20; cottonseed meal, \$34.

1. In the 111-day experiment, which was conducted at the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station during the summer of 1937, heifer calves creep-fed while running with their dams on pasture were 43 pounds heavier and enough fatter at weaning time to be valued \$1.50 per cwt. above similar steer calves not creep-fed.

2. The creep-fed calves consumed an average of .97 pound of grain per head daily. The total value of the feed consumed was \$1.71 per calf.

3. The 43 pounds advantage in weight and the \$1.50 per cwt. advantage in appraised value would have more than paid for the cost of the grain consumed by the creep-fed lot. Had the two lots been sold at weaning time, at the appraised value, the creep-fed heifers would have shown a net return of \$8.19 per head more than the non creep-fed steers.

4. Trouble was experienced in getting the calves to eat oats. Due to a wet harvest, the oats used were slightly musty and the calves did not care for any mixture of grain that had oats in it. When the oats were removed and a mixture of ground shelled corn and wheat bran was used the calves ate readily.

5. The mixture of equal parts ground shelled corn and wheat bran was fed for 10 days. Ground shelled corn was used the remainder of the period and, beginning September 15, one pound of meal was fed to 10 pounds of corn.

6. The results of this phase of the experiment would indicate that creep feeding would generally be profitable for well-bred calves that are to be sold for slaughter at weaning time or after a short (30- to 60-day) feeding period.

A comparison in the second phase of the study, that of finishing creep-fed heifer and non creep-fed steer calves during October 5, 1937, to April 6, 1938:

Number of days on feed—non creep-fed, 183; creep-fed, 133.

Number of calves per lot—9 in each case.

Initial weight per calf—non creep-fed, 392 pounds; creep-fed, 435.

Final weight per calf—non creep-fed, 825 pounds; creep-fed, 723.

Total gain per calf—non creep-fed, 433; creep-fed, 288.

Daily gain per calf—non creep-fed, 2.37 pounds; creep-fed, 2.16.

Average feed consumption per calf daily—non creep-fed, .99 pounds ground corn, .89 pound whole oats, .96 pound cottonseed cake, 1.90 pounds alfalfa hay, 1.06 pounds prairie hay; creep-fed, 10.97 pounds ground corn, .90 pound cottonseed cake, 1.97 pounds alfalfa hay, .57 pound prairie hay.

Feed required per 100 pounds gain—non creep-fed, 497.05 pounds concentrates and 124.90 pounds roughage;

creep-fed, 549.54 pounds concentrates and 117.51 pounds roughage.

Cost of feed per 100 pounds gain—non creep-fed, \$6.03; creep-fed, \$6.68.

Feed cost per calf (finishing period)—non creep-fed, \$26.11; creep-fed, \$19.24.

Feed cost per calf (creep period)—non creep-fed, none; creep-fed, \$1.71.

Cow cost per calf—\$18 in each instance.

Total calf cost plus feed cost—non creep-fed, \$44.11; creep-fed, \$38.95.

Necessary selling price per cwt. at home—non creep-fed, \$5.35; creep-fed, \$5.39.

Selling price at Oklahoma City—non creep-fed, \$9.50; creep-fed, \$8.35.

Net selling price per cwt. (35 cents per cwt. deducted to cover transportation, marketing, and shrink)—non creep-fed, \$9.15; creep-fed, \$8.

Net selling price per calf—non creep-fed, \$75.49; creep-fed, \$57.84.

Return per calf over calf cost plus feed cost—non creep-fed, \$31.38; creep-fed, \$18.89.

Feed prices used: corn, 60 cents; oats, 27c; cake, \$24; alfalfa, \$14; prairie hay, \$8.50.

1. In this trial the creep-fed heifer calves required 50 days less time, 5 bushels less corn, 4.75 bushels less oats, and 50 pounds less cottonseed meal per head to produce choice carcasses than similar steer calves not creep-fed.

2. The creep-fed heifer calves gained an average of 2.16 pounds throughout an 183-day feeding period, whereas the non creep-fed steer calves gained 2.37 pounds for an 183-day period.

3. At the end of the first 60 days the heifer calves averaged .23 pound more gain per head per day than the steer calves and required but little more feed per unit of gain. This advantage was lost by the eighty-eighth day. These data indicate that a finishing period of 66 days or less is the most profitable for the creep-fed calf.

4. The heifer calves required approximately 550 pounds of concentrates and 117 pounds of hay per 100 pounds weight gain as compared with 500 pounds concentrates and 125 pounds hay for the steers. Using current feed prices, the steers produced 100 pounds gain 65 cents cheaper than the heifers.

5. Had the steers sold for the same price as the heifers (\$8 net) they would have returned a profit of \$3 more per head due to their greater weight and greater economy of gain.

6. The \$1.15 per cwt. advantage in selling price received for the steer calves was due to a rising market. The calves were considered to be in equal finish when sold.

7. The heifer calves were placed on the self-feeder immediately, whereas the steer calves were hand-fed until the twentieth day, when they were put on the self-feeder. They were eating 6.17 pounds of grain per head daily at that time.

AAA MACHINERY BEGINNING TO SQUEAK

BY JAMES E. POOLE

AT NO TIME HAS THE LEAST apprehension existed that a corn marketing program would seriously influence cattle gain cost. Now that the referendum has been adroitly scuttled by lead pencil manipulation, those who rejected acreage allotments are breathing a bit easier. In November a corn loan will be announced, which would have been impossible had a referendum been rejected. All concerned are satisfied, the AAA saving its face, non-co-operators congratulating themselves on a spectacular achievement, and a New Deal is on the tapes for 1939, in all probability basing corn allotments on farm acreage instead of previous crop areas. That Congress passed the present act without due consideration is admitted. Refusal of a large percentage of growers to cooperate not only upset the plan but engendered bad feeling in agrarian circles. The act is loaded with theories preordained to failure when put into practice. Abandonment of the marketing phase of the program is tantamount to admission that controlled production machinery is squeaking. Of course, political exigencies had much to do with overruling a decision dictated by a pseudo-economic formula which conceivers insist is infallible, although balking at dangers inseparable from compliance.

Corn to Spare

A corn loan, estimated at 58 cents per bushel, can affect only a small part of a big crop, not to speak of a wealth of other feeds. There will be enough corn, with some to spare, especially when the carryover from 1937 is reckoned with. Gain cost per pound on steers tucked into the feed-lot this fall will be no more than during the past eight months. Current farm corn prices are 36 to 38 cents, and this could not be effected if it were possible to seal 20 per cent of the new crop. Dopesters figure a 58-cent loan this way: Prewar basis is 64 cents; figuring increased cost of practically everything the farmer buys, 83 cents is essential to establishing a parity basis; 58 cents is the logical loan basis at 70 per cent of 83 cents, and 58 cents is 8 cents higher than last year. How much corn would be sealed at 58 cents is a subject for conjecture, and the time is not here to indulge in speculation. Had a referendum been held, litigation would have ensued, southern tobacco growers setting an example. Controlled production is still in the sphere of theory. An English economist, asked by the writer how crop subsidy systems were working out in his country, replied: "We have discovered that a

pennyworth of subsidy means a shilling-worth of regulation."

Ranks Divide

A majority of corn growers was enthusiastic over the regulation idea at the outset. Manna was welcome, no conception of regulation existed. Farmers promised to "go along" with the program until the federal arm tightened the checkrein, whereupon they squawked audibly, a large percentage of those affected resorting to open defiance, which had the logical effect of expanding rather than contracting acreage and, in such a bountiful season as this, swelling aggregate yield. An impromptu antagonistic gathering at McComb, Illinois, rapidly gained volume, reaching interstate proportions, launched a Corn Belt organization, and expanded dissension—the first conspicuous development of that nature since the AAA went into action. When farmers were apprised of the possibility that they would be restrained from feeding their entire corn crop, possibly put to the necessity of buying other grain, opposition stiffened. Anyhow, many of the allotments, based on 1937 acreage, were absurd. The "anti" organization intends to take in more territory during the coming winter, publish an organ, and prepare for next season's skirmish. So far as the immediate future is concerned, malcontents are no longer apprehensive of fines for violating a marketing agreement, the corn loan idea is popular, and both sides to the controversy are apparently contented, but the division, which Secretary Wallace deplores, is evident. He puts "enemies" of existing legislation in two categories: those who offer "unsound" substitutes and those who criticize without offering remedies for agrarian problems.

Enthusiasm

Considering enhanced cattle replacement cost, cheap feed is a boon to farmer feeders, incidentally making the present stocker and feeder market possible. Not until late September will actual corn crop conditions develop, as much of it is behind its schedule and will be damaged by early frost; but, in that event, a buying rush for cattle to consume soft corn would ensue. Although stock cattle investment during the first seven months of 1938 was close to that of 1937, a large percentage of that purchase has either returned to the market or will go to the butcher before winter, so that estimates on beef making during the December-to-July period cannot be intelligently conjectured. Feeders are protesting volubly against cur-

rent cost, but such is actual and potential demand that the market may be considered on a stable basis. Occasional breaks will merely attract lagging buyers, a lively October and November trade being certain. Native stock cattle (so called in contradistinction to western production) have never been so scarce, throwing the burden of replenishment on the trans-Missouri region and the Southwest. Pennsylvania needs 300,000 winter cattle, the Corn Belt has not begun to satisfy its requirements, and sections where winter feeding has rarely been of considerable volume are getting into the game, as corn growing expanded when restrictions were placed on that crop all over the Belt proper. Nothing but a collapse by the fat cattle market can arrest beef-making enthusiasm.

At this moment many circumscribed areas east of the Missouri River are launching beef cattle growing enterprises, the purpose being to get away from new replacement cost. Where, formerly, so-called native stockers, mostly "reds," were grown in considerable numbers, milking herds have acquired sway, and, as the butter is at the collapsing stage, farmers are turning their attention to beef. A short cut is using beef bulls on dairy cows, the progeny showing sire conformation and color. In Wisconsin thousands of these calves are eating at the creep to go on full feed when weaned and report to the butcher, finished, at weights ranging from 650 to 800 pounds. Development of this idea will necessarily be slow, as the cycle is lengthy, but the initial effort promises responsibility for a major movement in beef making within a few years. In fact, expansion already accomplished is not recognized. It is making a broad market for local breeders of Hereford, Angus, and Shorthorn bulls and relieving dairy herds of "boarder" cows. In Jo Daviess County, Illinois, recently the writer visited an erstwhile dairyman with 27 white-face calves, the progeny of Guernsey cows. "Got tired of pulling the teat twice a day and getting nothing for it," he explained. "Ever see a more

(Continued on page 18)

BACK IN THE GOOD OLD BUFFALO DAYS

BY EDW. BURNETT

BUFFALOS WERE PLENTIFUL in the West, and in big herds; but I cannot say they were so thick as Herman Melville describes them in Illinois and Missouri in his book *Moby Dick*. He says:

"About one hundred years ago, they were spread by tens of thousands over the prairies. . . . Through so short a period, the census of the buffalo in Illinois exceeded the census of the men in London, and in the present day, not one horn or hoof remains in all that region."

"In the days of the old Canadian and Indian hunters of the West, when the West was a wilderness and a virgin, these moccassined men, mounted on ponies, have been known to kill, not forty, but forty thousand or more buffalos in a day—a fact which if need be could be statistically stated."

Close to the Big Horn Mountains in Wyoming they were not in very large herds, but 40 or 50 miles to the east they occurred in great numbers.

Buffalo hunters came into these parts about 1877 and later, after Red Cloud, Sitting Bull, and Dull Knife had been run out or killed. The buffalos migrated some; but not all of them, although there was quite a tendency for them to drift south in the fall and return in the spring.

I do not doubt Mr. Melville's statement in the slightest; but, as I say, buffalos were not that numerous in the short-grass country of the West, otherwise they could not have survived; but there were great numbers of them.

Almost Exterminated

The buffalos were almost exterminated; but not quite, as the following from the *Saturday Review*, June 23, 1928, brings out:

"And now we discover that the American bison is, after all, not extinct. A. de Herries Smith, author of *Drums of the North*, a Macaulay novel, asserts that in the giant triangle made by the Great Slave Lake, the Peace and the Slave rivers, there exists the last herd of really wild buffalos in North America.

Perhaps some statistics on the number and location of buffalos in the early days will be of interest. I gathered these from a book called *The Range Cattle Industry*, by Edward Everett Hale. The buffalos were split up into two herds by the travel on the Overland Trail, and the building of the Union Pacific Railroad, which furnished shipping facilities. In many ways the buffalo had more sense than the deer or antelope. When he was shot at a few times, he left for pastures new. The deer scattered to the hills. The ante-

lope just made a short run and then returned to his old range, to be shot at again and again. There was little or no game for 50 miles north and south of the Overland Trail.

"By 1880 the southern herd was virtually exterminated. Then the hunters turned their attention to the northern herd as they then had transportation via the Northern Pacific Railroad, which built west from Bismarck in 1880. By 1882 it was estimated that there were 5,000 hunters and skinners on the northern plains. By 1884 the animals had virtually all been exterminated, and buffalo hunting as a business had come to an end forever."

When the slaughter got to the point that the buffalos were so few it did not pay, then came the big game hunters, and they cleaned up the remnant, so that nothing remained.

Hunting the Dollar

The hide hunters were not out for sport. It was dollars they were after. It is told of them that in Kansas they even used shotguns and buckshot. Ernest Thompson Seton, the naturalist, says:

"In 1868 Bill Cody (Buffalo Bill) had a contract to furnish buffalo meat to the construction camps of the Kansas Pacific Railroad, who were building west through Kansas. In eighteen months he delivered 4,280 carcasses.

"Near Sheridan, Kansas, on a wager, he killed sixty-nine in one day; his competitor, Billy Comstock, killed forty-six."

It was sport the big game hunters were after when they exterminated the scattered remnant, and they were strung out from the Rio Grande to the Peace River and even north to the little stick country, the home of the musk ox.

It was not the slow lumbering buffalo of 1870 now. Constant harrying made a change. He was wary. Exercise had made his legs longer. He could run like a deer, and keep it up all day. When wounded, he could fight like a bear. In the seventies any old plug of an Indian pony could run up on him. In 1884 it took the best pony in your string.

The last of the buffalos in Wyoming were in the Big Horn Mountains. It was generally locally thought that these were plains buffalos that had sought refuge there. This is not correct. They were a distinct species—the chunky mountain breed, *bison athabasca*. They had a different rib and skull formation. They did not live in large herds—never more than four or five together. They were shorter coupled, their hair darker, long and silky, horns long and slender. This buffalo, though now grown larger



on the rich grasses, is still in a wild state in the Great Slave Lake forests. There it is called the woods buffalo. Another species, the Black Pennsylvania, like the passenger pigeon, is extinct.

Thirty Million

Before the slaughter which started in 1865, Buffalo Jones estimated that in the whole American continent there were 30,000,000 buffalos. Colonel Dodge raises him 10,000,000. In 1877, Horace Greeley guessed 2,000,000 for the Platte River and tributaries. General Sheridan, who traveled with him, said 3,000,000.

It is estimated that in 1870 there were 5,000,000 buffalos south of the Platte River and about 2,000,000 north of it. And quoting from Hale's book, in order to give some idea of the slaughter: "From 1876 to 1884 a single firm in New York, J. A. Boskowitz, purchased 246,175 hides and robes for which they paid \$924,790." There were many other firms in the business also.

There were not many left here (northern Wyoming) in 1881. The cowboys had orders to kill them off. As long as there were any, Indians would get permission to leave their reservation and get them, and if they failed they killed cattle. "Last Bull," a Cheyenne chief, complained to the agent about the cowboys killing buffalos, saying that they would be exterminated. The agent said that was impossible. "You said that about the beaver," said Last Bull, "where are they now?"

When the buffalo vanished we used to say he took his grass—buffalo grass—with him. Anyhow they both disappeared at the same time. Why it was called buffalo grass I never could understand. It was too short for the buffalos ever to graze. Their lips are so thick they could not bite short grass as a horse or a sheep does.

Then the hide hunters turned their butchery on the elk. When they got them killed off, they turned on the deer. A few of the black-tailed deer that made their home on the open plains and badlands escaped the slaughter and, after years of protection, restocked the country, but the white-tailed deer was not so fortunate. Those not killed off by the hide hunters fell prey to the settlers. Their haunts were on the willow-lined creeks and rivers. Of an evening they would come into the glades and dance and gambol like goats. The buffalo was not so ungainly as his picture shows. He was the personification of massive, rugged strength. The black-tailed deer is perky, dignified looking, with his angular heavy horns; but the white-tailed deer, with his slender, arched horns, was the picture of grace, sunshine, and happiness.

Fourteen Pairs of Ribs

The buffalo has 14 pairs of ribs. This distinguishes it from the cow family,

which has only 13 pairs. They used to graze largely on willows and browsed on the leaves, shoots, bark, and twigs of trees. This gave the flesh a peculiar aromatic flavor, and you very soon tired of the meat. It was the great source of meat when the overland railroads were built. The hides made good robes, but the leather was not good. It was spongy.

I was on the first round-up that worked to the mouth of Crazy Woman Creek. We saw signs that we thought were from cows. A buffalo hunter showed us that it was a buffalo sign. Cow droppings are all in one place, but those from a buffalo are strung out. There were supposed to be Indians in those parts, and we were glad to get back safely. When we were down there we acquired the habit of talking in a whisper and quite forgot how to holler.

There were a number of attempts to break the buffalo to work, but all in vain. Major Pease, the first agent for the Crows, had some of them tamed and tried to work them with broken oxen. The yokes he made of ash and the bows of gas pipe. They would not work. When they became thirsty, they would go to the closest water, taking wagons and oxen with them, whether or not.

It was great fun chasing the buffalos through deep snowdrifts. They would burst the drifts wide open. It looked like a steam rotary snowplow. They had enormous strength. I have never seen one bogged down. I have seen them cross Powder River without any exertion where the quicksand was so bad it would bog a man and horse down just looking at it from the bank.

Piled Like Cordwood

In the winter of 1880, Dave Cummins, who was with the Jim White outfit, was sent out to find a new hunting ground. He located one on the Big Horn River. On his return journey he stopped with me at my cabin on Powder River, and the next day I rode with him to their camp at the spring. Close to Fort Reno there was cordwood piled up that had been abandoned, and the farther we went down the river the more numerous

were the piles. At last I said, "What a lot of cordwood." He took me over to it. What I thought was cordwood were buffalo hides corded up, thousands and thousands of them. When the water was high in the spring, they rafted them down Powder River to the Yellowstone and there they were loaded on steam-boats for St. Louis.

Jim White moved his camp over to the Big Horn River. He was killed there in the spring of 1881—whether by white men or Indians we were never sure. The main reason some had for thinking it was white men's work, I think, was that the evidence looked too much like Indian work and may have been so arranged for a blind. It could have, however, been Indians. Although the Indians were not then at war, there were wandering bands of renegades that were dangerous. As the old ballad says:

"Our neighbors are the Cheyennes, the
Rapahoes and Sioux,
Their mode of navigation is a buffalo-
hide canoe.
And when they come upon you they
take you unaware,
And such a funny way they have of
raising hunters' hair."

Jim White's Camp

While in Jim White's camp I asked a great many questions, which Jim answered very good-naturedly. He was quite pleased to see that I was interested. The outfit consisted of Jim, two skinners, and a camp man who among his various duties acted as cook. Jim did all the hunting. When he came into camp in the evening, he would tell the skinners where every carcass lay, and he could even tell just about where wounded ones were. When the skinners came in the next evening they almost always had every hide, found just where described.

Then the next day the camp man would stretch and peg down the hides on a smooth hillside to dry. These pegs were made of ash about 18 inches long. The drying field usually covered about one-half acre. When the hides were dry the camp man stacked them up and tied the top ones down to prevent the wind blowing them over.

Let me tell you something about Jim's rifle and ammunition. He always had a Sharps 45-120, carrying a 485-grain bullet, and sometimes fitted with telescopic sights, the whole generally costing more than \$100. Sometimes a Sharps 44-90, using 315-grain bullets (bottle-neck cartridges), would be kept in camp.

The skinners generally received 25 cents a head, whether a large or small animal, bull, cow, or calf, and they made fair wages at it. They were also furnished their board. The Sharps rifle was so heavy that the hunters used a rest, which usually consisted of two hickory four-horse whipstocks. They were tied together and one could regulate the height by slipping the fingers up or down. The thick end of the stocks was shaved down to the thickness of the thin



"Just as soon as the government starts paying those old age pensions I'm going back to college and complete my senior year"

end and a hole made in them to put in a rag, and that was the cleaning rod. Ten or 12 shots, and they had to clean the gun, or the barrel would heat and the bullets spatter and lead the barrel. If this got bad, they had to go to a gunsmith for boring—a job that made the caliber a trifle larger, so that the gunsmith had also to bore out the bullet molds to correspond.

A really good Skinner could take a hide off in five minutes. The Indians generally rolled them on their belly and cut the hide down the back, taking it off in two pieces. This was handier for tanning. Then they sewed them down the back with sinews. The young cows had the best and darkest hides. They were worth from \$3 to \$3.50 apiece, while the common run of robes brought \$2 or less. The cost of getting them to market, whether by raft or wagon, was 50 cents each.

Made Their Own

They bought the cartridge shells, which they loaded themselves. The manufactured cartridges were of no use to them. They injured the rifle. Powder came in 50-pound kegs at 50 cents a pound, and lead in bars at 20 cents a pound. When they made the bullets, they had a very hot fire, burning tallow both under and over the dutch oven. They had a long ladle with which to dip the almost red-hot lead. They used 5 pounds of tin to 100 pounds of lead.

To make good bullets it was necessary to have very hot lead. After the bullets were molded, they wrapped the end of each bullet in a piece of thin silk paper. Then they were ready to go in the cartridge. The silk paper protected the rifling and kept the gun clean so that it did not heat with rapid firing, although the buffalo hunter very seldom shot fast. He shot slowly and deliberately.

Within a spot about the size of a man's hat, behind the shoulder, was where he usually hit them. Buffalos were not afraid of the report of a rifle, and often 50 or more would be killed without the herd moving away; but the hunter had to be careful to keep on the lee side of them if there was any wind. When hit by a bullet, they would grunt like a hog.

Good Enough Grub

And lastly, about the grub of the buffalo hunters: The main item was buffalo meat. They would kill young cows in the fall of the year, when they were fat and the meat was good. After it cooled off, they would wrap it in hides and bury it in a snowdrift. This was their favorite meat, although sometimes they would kill a fat antelope. They had no potatoes, but plenty of beans, sourdough bread, bacon, coffee, pickles, molasses, sugar, and what was called firkin butter—pretty strong, but in the center of the firkin it was all right. All said, it was good enough grub for anyone.

VALUE OF SUPPLEMENTS IN WINTERTIME

THAT THE BIRTH WEIGHT OF A calf is a definite indication of the rate of gain during the first 200 days has been proved by experiments conducted by the Animal Husbandry Department of the University of Arizona, we read in the *Cattleman*.

These experiments also showed that, contrary to popular belief, cattle consumption of water is governed more by temperatures and humidity than by the type of feed consumed, and that cattle consume more salt in the winter when dry feed is eaten than in the summer when green grass is available.

A statistical analysis of the birth weight and average daily gain records for 194 range calves shows that for each 10-pound increase in birth weight, an increase of .23 pound in the average daily gain of a calf can be expected during the first 200 days of its life, according to E. B. Stanley, who had charge of the experiments, the article says.

Value of Winter Supplements

The experiments were made to determine whether supplemental feeding of range cattle during winter months is profitable. Special emphasis was placed on the effect of supplemental feeding of cows on the subsequent birth weight, weaning weight, and per cent calf crop.

Throughout the study the cows receiving the supplemental feed were always heavier and more attractive in appearance, but the better condition was not reflected enough in the birth weight of the calves, the per cent calf crop, the final weight, or the actual gross income from the sale of the calves to warrant the supplemental feeding, it is stated. This generalization refers only to cattle maintained on areas similar to the one studied, as observations have shown that cake feeding is profitable on many areas where feed is scant or winters severe. The study was conducted near Sonoita, in southern Arizona.

While calves from cows wintered on an average daily feed of 1.21 pounds of cottonseed cake averaged 4 pounds heavier at birth and 9 pounds heavier at weaning, on a practical basis this increase in weight was not sufficient to justify the cost of cake feeding on that type of range. Range cows wintered on 3 pounds of cake a day a head did not maintain a better weight than cows getting 1.5 pounds, but the calves from the maximum-cake lot were 16 pounds heavier at weaning age. Creep feeding calves a half pound of cake a head daily caused a 16-pound-a-head increase in weight as compared with the non creep-fed group at weaning, but the feed cost was more than the value of the extra gain. Fed at the same levels, cottonseed cake and corn were found to

be of equal value in maintaining the weight of range cows during the winter period in a one-year's trial.

Drink 6.3 Gallons Daily

The figures on water consumption showed that the largest amount was ingested in June and July—8 to 11 gallons a head daily—and the smallest amount in December, January, and February—the period of dry feed—averaging from 3 to 4 gallons daily per cow. The average for the entire year was 6.3 gallons per day per head. The feeding of minerals, cottonseed meal, or corn as supplements had no appreciable effect on the amount of water ingested.

It has always been the belief of stockmen that cattle used more salt when eating green range grass than during the dry winter feeding period. But these experiments showed that the opposite is true. December, January, and February were the high-consumption point, and August, September, and October the low point. The amount of salt consumed ranged from 3 ounces to 1 ounce per day, the latter during late summer and early fall.

STATE WOOL BODIES HOLD CONVENTIONS

THREE HUNDRED DELEGATES to the annual convention of the Wyoming Wool Growers' Association, held at Lander, Wyoming, August 2-5, adopted a committee report asking appropriation of \$1,000,000 for predatory animal control, expressed the opinion that the Taylor Grazing Act was satisfactory so long as proper persons, referring specifically to Director of Grazing F. R. Carpenter, handled the administration of the program, and studied ways and means of producing better quality wool and bettering the market for their product.

Speakers were: F. R. Carpenter, of Washington, D. C.; Governor Leslie A. Miller, of Cheyenne; H. J. King, president of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation; Reed W. Bailey, director of the Forest Service at Ogden, Utah; R. C. Rich, president of the National Wool Growers' Association; Ralph B. Graham, president of the Colorado-Nebraska Lamb Feeders' Association, Ft. Morgan, Colorado; C. B. Denman, of the National Association of Food Chains; Earl H. Reid, of Torrington; and United States Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney.

Officers elected were: John A. Reed, of Kemmerer, president; Roy Moore, of Ross, vice-president; and J. B. Wilson, of McKinley, secretary-treasurer.

* * *

More than 450 Colorado sheepmen in convention recently at Glenwood Springs, Colorado, asked that a 10-year "long range" federal appropriation for the Biological Survey be enacted to finance

a campaign against predatory animals. Another resolution advocated repeal of the Colorado chain-store tax.

Members of the Colorado Wool Growers' Association renamed Norman Winder, of Craig, president; L. B. Sylvester, of Monte Vista, first vice-president. M. E. Noonan, of Kremmling, was named second vice-president, and Carl Osborn, of Fruita, secretary-treasurer.

* * *

Everybody in Arizona got in on the first session of the fifty-second annual convention of the Arizona Wool Growers' Association. The two-hour program, broadcast over the state's NBC station, included addresses by Association President George H. Wilbur; Arizona's Senator Carl Hayden; Alfred Atkinson, president of the state university; and R. W. Young, general counsel of the FCA at Berkeley, California. Other speakers and other sessions followed.

Resolutions passed opposed establishing grazing preferences on the public domain unless priority of use is determining factor; opposed separation of Forest Service from Department of Agriculture; opposed Pettengill bill. Other resolutions asked that interested agencies co-operate in a broad plan for wildlife conservation; that relief agencies make purchases of lamb, mutton, and wool part of their program; that fabric labeling legislation be enacted; that State Department "make no concessions in wool tariff schedules and to withdraw from reciprocal trade agreement discussions and leave all consideration of trade agreements to Congress."

NOTES ON A MONTH OF MEETINGS

SAN LUIS VALLEY CATTLEMEN'S Association members, meeting at Alamosa July 23, recommended doubling the contribution to the National Live Stock and Meat Board—from 25 cents to 50 cents a car. The delegates also voted to adopt the "calf plan" for financing their organization. The plan will be operated on the basis of a calf contributed by growers for a stipulated number of cows owned. Speakers at the

meeting were Dr. B. F. Davis, secretary-manager of the Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association; Charles W. Lilley, of Virginia Dale, president of the state association; A. A. Blakley, president of the Denver Live Stock Exchange; and Dr. R. M. Gow, state livestock sanitary inspector. Alfred M. Collins, of the San Luis Valley Land and Cattle Company, was named president, succeeding Earle E. Wilson, of Villa Grove. Robert C. Taylor, of Alamosa, is secretary.

* * *

Representatives of 30 industries met in Washington, D. C., to discuss the problem of widely varying state laws affecting use of private vehicles and the costly difficulties those laws create in moving goods. The National Council of Private Motor Truck Owners grew out of the meeting—a body set up to promote "the safe and economical use of highway transportation by agriculture and industry in private motor trucks." Initially the organization will gather facts concerning vehicle regulations and study laws and legislative proposals affecting them.

* * *

Members and officials of local, state, and regional lamb feeders' associations from eight states, feeding more than 4,000,000 lambs, in meeting in Chicago recently decided to organize the National Lamb Feeders' Association. Their purpose is to establish more direct working relationships between growers and feeders of lambs and to eliminate practices injurious to both the producing and feeding divisions of the industry. Reduction of speculation and the buying and selling of lamb contracts are major aims. Other purposes are to encourage a more uniform purchase contract and down payment for the purchase of lambs and the stabilization of prices of feeder and fat lambs.

* * *

Retail meat dealers from all parts of the country met in Milwaukee recently at the fifty-third annual convention of the Association of Retail Meat Dealers. Speakers included John Holmes, president of Swift and Company; C. V. Whalin, in charge of live-stock, meats, and wool division of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics; Max Cullen, merchandising specialist of the National Live Stock and Meat Board; and Warren H. Sapp, of Armour and Company. John Holmes, in answering the question, why do meat and live-stock prices go up and down, said: First, total pay rolls determine demand for meat, affecting its price; and, second, supply of meat animals, governed by "weather condition, the price of feed, and many other factors" is an important cause of price change.

* * *

Two hundred visitors from 11 states attended the Highland Hereford Breed-

ers' Association meeting held at Marfa, Texas, August 3-5. In addition to acquainting visitors with the Highland country and its cattle, discussions on industry problems were held each evening. Keynote of the programs was need of increased consumption. One of the resolutions called for increased consumption of beef to help the industry and "increase health and vigor of our people." It urged that the southern agricultural colleges use all possible means to increase consumption of meat and that effective methods would be through (1) education of housewives by home demonstration agents, (2) through radio programs sponsored by agricultural colleges, and (3) through close tie-up between agricultural college meat specialists and retailers.

* * *

Legislative committeemen of the American National Live Stock Association conferred with executive officials of seven western railroads in Chicago July 29. The 85 per cent stocker and feeder rate was the subject of the conference. This was an initial move in line with a policy adopted at the Executive Committee meeting in Denver July 9-10 to try through co-operation to work out problems between shippers and railroads. Cattlemen representing the industry at Chicago were Hubbard Russell, of Los Angeles, president of the American National Live Stock Association; Henry G. Boice, of Arizona; C. J. Abbott, of Nebraska; and Charles E. Collins, of Colorado.

* * *

Directors of the California Cattlemen's Association, meeting at San Francisco July 9, approved the principle of voluntary payment to the National Live Stock and Meat Board of 50 cents for each car of cattle sold. The group opposed a state humane pound measure which it believed would hamper medical research.

* * *

Increase of memberships in the Idaho Cattle and Horse Growers' Association from 40 in 1935 to 448 in 1938 is shown in a recent bulletin of the association. Payments to the American National Live Stock Association by the Idaho organization are shown to have grown from \$149.20 in 1935 to \$500 in 1938.

* * *

Nebraska stockmen are seeking establishment of a state live-stock and sanitary board. The executive committee of the Nebraska Stock Growers' Association is at work on a measure providing for such a board to be presented to the next state legislature.

* * *

Sublette County (Wyoming) Cattle Growers' Association members, meeting recently at Pinedale, named officers as follows: J. P. Jensen, of Big Piney, president; Albert Larsen, vice-president; and Joe Pence, secretary-treasurer. . . .

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J. W. Sartwelle, of Houston, has been elected for the seventh successive year to the presidency of the Houston (Texas) Fat Stock Show. Julian A. Weslow is first vice-president, and W. O. Cox, secretary. . . . Frank McDermott, of Aguilar, Colorado, was elected president of the Southern Colorado Live Stock Association to succeed A. V. Berg, of Morley. Guy McDaniels, of Thatcher, was elected vice-president; H. L. Beirne, of Trinidad, was renamed secretary; and J. Green, of Trinidad, was chosen treasurer.

* * *

Representatives of farm organizations, state colleges, railroads, packing plants, and commission houses gathered in Kansas City, Missouri, July 21 to consider a six-point program for the regulation of live-stock production in a manner similar to the crop control measures of the new AAA bill. The program called for (1) education along the lines of utilizing larger acreages in production of pasture and feed crops and building up of breeding herds until live stock is sufficient to consume available feed supplies, (2) improvement in quality and efficiency of meat animals by better breeding, (3) utilization of feed grains through live stock rather than holding them in storage when supplies are large, (4) growing of soil conserving and soil building crops, (5) farmer and stockman production of feedstuffs to meet need of their live stock, and (6) that feeding of live stock of corn, oats, and other crops and returning of barnyard manure to the soil where such crops were grown be recognized by AAA as soil building practice.

* * *

At a stockmen's meeting at Dillon, Montana, recently, supervised by B. R. Williams, county extension agent, and the Red Rock Valley Live Stock Association, the matter of organizing an association for the stockmen of Beaverhead, Madison, and Silver Bow counties was discussed.

CATTLE ON FEED INCREASED ONE-EIGHTH IN CORN BELT

NUMBER OF CATTLE ON FEED for market in the Corn Belt states on August 1 was about 12 per cent larger than on August 1 last year, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This increase compares with estimated increases of 20 per cent on April 1 and 15 per cent on January 1, 1938.

In the eastern Corn Belt a 17 per cent increase was indicated. In the western Corn Belt the increase was 8 per cent.

Last year on August 1 a 29 per cent reduction in number on feed, compared with a year earlier, was attributed largely to very small carryover of feed supplies following the 1936 drought.

This year the 12 per cent increase is accompanied in general by a larger carryover of feed from the 1937 harvest. In Nebraska and Kansas, however, the supplies of old feed on August 1 this year were far below normal. Largely because of these short supplies, no increase in the number of cattle on feed was shown in Nebraska this August compared with the small number on feed a year ago, while in Kansas there was a 35 per cent decrease.

Reports from feeders show expected purchases this year somewhat larger than actual purchases last fall.

Estimated number of cattle on feed August 1, 1938, as a percentage of the number a year earlier is as follows:

Ohio	110
Indiana	120
Illinois	125
Michigan	95
Wisconsin	95
Minnesota	105
Iowa	122
Missouri	115
South Dakota	110
Nebraska	100
Kansas	65
Total Corn Belt	112

WESTERN CATTLE MOVEMENT DOWN HALF MILLION HEAD

SHIPMENTS OF CATTLE AND calves from the 17 states in the western cattle area, extending from North Dakota to Texas and westward, during the five months August to December, 1938, will be about 9 per cent smaller than shipments during the corresponding period of 1937, according to estimate of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This reduction will be equivalent to about 550,000 head. The estimated shipments, although smaller than in 1937 and 1936, are about the same as in 1935 and 10 per cent larger than for the 1924-33 average.

All the reduction will be in shipments from the plains and Rocky Mountain states, with little change in the total from the states west of the Continental Divide. The decreases will be relatively the largest in the states where cattle numbers were sharply reduced as a result of the 1934 and 1936 droughts and where feed supplies this year are more nearly normal. While in these states there are some indications of a tendency to build up cattle herds, there is little evidence pointing to any marked increase in cattle numbers this year.

With abundant supplies of feed grains and hay and good range conditions over nearly all the western cattle region, fall shipments will be influenced to a considerable extent by trend of prices in the next few months. A sharp drop from early August levels similar to that which occurred in early September, 1937, would cause a good many cattle to be held over that will be

CALENDAR

- Sept. 26-Oct. 3—Dairy Cattle Congress, Waterloo, Iowa.
- Sept. 30—New Mexico Ram Sale, Albuquerque.
- Oct. 1-9—Pacific International Live Stock Exposition, Portland, Ore.
- Oct. 7—Highland Hereford Feeder Sale, Marfa, Tex.
- Oct. 8-15—National Dairy Show, Columbus, Ohio.
- Oct. 15-22—American Royal Live Stock Show, Kansas City, Mo.
- Oct. 17—Range Day, State College, New Mexico.
- Oct. 23-29—Ak-Sar-Ben Stock Show, Omaha, Neb.
- Nov. 16-24—Session National Grange, Portland, Ore.
- Nov. 26-Dec. 3—International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago.
- Dec. 9-10—Convention California Cattlemen's Ass'n, San Francisco.
- Jan. 28-Feb. 4, 1939—National Western Stock Show, Denver.
- Feb. 7-14—Ogden Live Stock Show, Ogden, Utah.
- Feb. 15-17—Convention American National Live Stock Ass'n, San Francisco.
- Feb. 18-28—Golden Gate International Exposition Beef Cattle Show, San Francisco.
- Feb. 25-Mar. 5—Houston Fat Stock Show, Houston, Tex.
- June 7-9—Intermountain Junior Fat Stock Show, No. Salt Lake.

marketed if prices remain near levels of mid-August.

Demand for stocker and feeder cattle from the Corn Belt is expected to be fairly strong this fall, since supplies of feed grains and hay will be quite large—considerably larger than last year—and prices of feeds no higher and perhaps lower than last year. While hog numbers are above last year, they are still small compared with most other recent years when corn supplies were as large as they will be this year.

Cattle marketed from the western states are expected to average better in condition and heavier in weight than for some years. Range and pasture conditions this season have averaged the best since 1932, and, except for limited areas in some states, feed conditions have been quite generally very favorable.

START SHIPPING

We have started shipping grass cattle this week. Our grass cattle are better than usual. We sent three loads of steers to North Portland this week and expect to get 8 cents or better for them. Grass and hay crops are better than average this year. We have had some good rains the past few days.—S. B. CARTER, Long Creek, Ore.

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PUSHING PRODUCTION

RECENTLY THE CHAMBER OF Commerce of Kansas City sponsored a live-stock promotion meeting, apparently attended by college professors, newspaper editors, packers, commission men, stock-yards' representatives, production credit officials, and one or two live-stock producers. The theme seemed to be a supposed need for a good increase in live-stock production in connection with a more diversified farm program.

The PRODUCER does not question the motives of the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce in sponsoring the meeting, or of those who attended it, but the fact remains that the interests of many of those in attendance are not in common with interests of stock producers. Packers, commission men, and stock-yard companies profit by volume in the live-stock industry, regardless of the price. With producers, the price is necessarily the main objective; volume is of lesser importance.

For more than a year past, the head of one of the large packing concerns has been broadcasting the need of increasing live-stock production and decreasing cost. This, of course, is right down his own alley. So far it is not known that he has advanced any suggestion as to how the cost of processing and distributing live stock can be decreased, nor does he call attention to the fact that, of the consumer dollar invested in live-stock products, farmers' gross proceeds are 40 per cent; wholesale and retail distributors' gross margin above processors' price, 42 per cent; packing companies' margin above animal cost, 13 per cent; and transportation, marketing, etc., 5 per cent.

Recommendation No. 1 of the promo-

tion meeting referred to was "That organized forces of agricultural education be urged to emphasize the utilization of larger acreages in the production of pasture and feed crops and encourage the building up of breeding herds until live stock are sufficient fully to consume available feed supplies. In years of surplus roughages, that storage as ensilage and in other forms be stressed." Then recommendation No. 5 suggests "that farmers and stockmen be encouraged to produce feedstuffs in sufficient quantity to meet the needs of their live stock as nearly as economically possible." Apparently, first you are to produce more live stock to eat the feed and then more feed to feed the live stock. No reference is made to any possible check upon the operations of this scheme consistent with the consuming demands of the public.

The PRODUCER believes that natural economic forces working through the law of supply and demand will properly regulate the production of live stock, if there is not too much arbitrary interference by government or other agencies. There is every indication that, at least so far as cattle are concerned, we have reached the low point in the current cycle. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics has pointed out that the January 1, 1938, figure of 65,930,000 undoubtedly marks the low point. In the South there is a concerted move to diversify agriculture and to increase live-stock production on acres taken out of cotton and tobacco. In the Corn Belt there is no other avenue for use of acres taken out of corn and wheat than live-stock production. It would be far better for the group referred to above to concern itself with the possibility of overproduction than to attempt to precipitate an undue increase.

The census of January 1, 1938, shows that the seven far western states—Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and the three states on the coast—had 103 per cent of the cattle population as of January 1, 1934; the next four states to the east—Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico—had 71 per cent as of the 1934 figure; the Dakotas, Nebraska, and Kansas, 69 per cent (the last two groups largely covering the territory where drought hit the hardest since 1934); Texas and Oklahoma, 84 per cent; the north-central states, 97 per cent; the New England states, 102 per cent; the south Atlantic states, 95 per cent; and the southern states, 94 per cent; the United States as a whole, 88.8 per cent.

It is apparent that when the states hit by drought have restored their cattle numbers to anything like a normal basis we shall have all the cattle we need without great increases in other sections of the country. If the eight drought states mentioned were to restore their cattle numbers to the 1934 basis, and there were no other change

from the January 1, 1938, figure, it would make a total of 71,402,000 head, which, with the exception of the year 1934, would be the largest showing since 1919.

That restocking operations are already under way is clearly evident. The cattle slaughter for the first seven months of 1938 is 14 per cent below that of a year ago, while the cattle slaughter for the same period has decreased only 1 per cent. Slaughter of cows and heifers for the first six months of the year (July figures not available at this writing) included in the "cattle division," also show a decline of 8 per cent from a year ago, so that it is quite apparent there is a move to hold back she-stock and young cattle, and this seems to be quite general throughout the country.

The record of the past shows that whenever too much effort is made to increase production the whole industry inevitably soon suffers. When prices get on a high plane, credit agencies have sometimes stimulated expansion by urging producers to increase loans and herds in proportion. This is comparatively easy to do, because when prices are good the ambition to become a cattle king is rampant. Some of the soundest operators in the country today are those who have resisted this ambition and who have taken advantage of periods of high prices not to increase their holdings but to market even more than normally.

Cattle prices have been on a reasonably satisfactory level now for two or three years. It may well be that a cattle population of around 70,000,000 head can be sustained without difficulty; but the industrial situation is none too good and the future is very cloudy, and no one can tell what the next few years may hold. Once an upturn in production gets under way it is hard to stop. It is easy to upset the apple cart; it is hard to put on the brakes; and a relatively small increase may turn the trick. The agencies that are now booming it up to increase production will offer nothing but sympathy if a surplus is created that can be marketed only at ruinous prices.

RANGE CONSERVATION

IN THE AUGUST "PRODUCER" attention was called to the action of the Executive Committee at its recent Denver meeting in recommending that the range conservation program be discontinued at the close of the current year. This does not indicate any hostility on the part of the stockmen toward the AAA. Many stockmen, particularly in drought areas, have frankly appreciated the assistance given them under this program, although recognizing it for what it was—largely a government subsidy. There are, no doubt,

some who would prefer to have this subsidy continue indefinitely, but the great majority of stockmen, independent as always, would far rather steer clear of permanent government interference in their industry, knowing that eventually it can only be financed through the medium of a processing tax. There is general consensus that such a tax on cattle would do the industry infinitely more damage than all the government subsidies in the world would do good.

Some may ask: Why, then, was the program accepted in the first place? The answer is: Because of a tremendous effort by the AAA itself, by the extension service, and by representatives of the state agricultural colleges, working in close harmony with the government men, to secure acceptance. Every possible argument was advanced, but the most telling one was: "You are going to have to pay your part of it anyway. You might just as well take it while the taking is good."

That the threat of a processing tax is real cannot be questioned. The President has repeatedly warned that any amount appropriated for the purposes of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration in excess of \$500,000,000 must be financed by special taxes. The past Congress exceeded this amount in appropriations for the AAA by something over \$200,000,000, but warning was given that special taxes must be levied next year to cover. Naturally such taxes would not first be imposed in an election year.

Nor can it be assumed that the AAA is satisfied with its present allotment of cash. Its program is not going over too well in many sections, and, no doubt, the attempt will be made to pacify the objectors by increasing the amount of the subsidy. Furthermore it is expected that amendments will be asked extending the control now exercised over the major crops to all related crops. It will be argued that the corn situation cannot be controlled unless the limitations on area are removed and other feed crops, such as rye, barley, and sorghums, are controlled.

If this is done, the live-stock industry will indeed be confronted with a serious situation. It will have the menace of lowered demand for its product as feed crops are decreased and of enlarged competition from the Corn Belt and other areas as live-stock production is increased on acres taken out of major crop production. Repeated denials that there is any danger from this source fail to conceal the unmistakable trend in that direction. And last but not least, if the AAA is successful in extending its domain, as suggested above, processing taxes on the major crops to be handled are inevitable, and no method has yet been found of financing a corn program except to levy the tax upon live stock.

The Executive Committee is to be

commended for its action in placing the association in a position wholeheartedly to fight against a processing tax on cattle or cattle products. The abandonment of the range program will not in any sense be a step backward. The Soil Conservation Service is still in existence and can carry on in an educational way the practices that have been of benefit to the range country. That is really the proper way in which the government should function in its relation to an industry. There will be calamity howlers who will insist that the range will be destroyed unless the range program under the AAA is continued, but the record already disproves such claims. One year of favorable rainfall, such as has occurred this year in most of the range country, has done more to restore the range, as the condition reports of the Bureau of Crop Estimates show, than 100 years of government activity could possibly do.

A NATIONAL PROBLEM

WE PICKED UP AN ARTICLE the other day from the *Canadian Cattleman* about rustling. It said:

"Thieves can make their kill, load the meat into their trucks, and be several hundred miles away from the scene of their pillage before daybreak. . . . The losses suffered by many live-stock producers in recent years have been very severe. . . .

"The Mounted Police has placed special stock detectives in areas which are badly infested with thieves. They have been relentless in their drives, and it is felt that stealing is being checked."

Here is an article that portrays our own situation exactly—except that we have no "Mounted Police." We had hoped to have federal aid. We have asked for it, but it has been denied twice in the present administration by refusal to endorse the McCarran bill. We hope we may get it some day.

Present day cattle rustling cannot be coped with locally. Fast trucks, state lines, and usually a few hours time are on the side of the rustlers. What we

need to combat this advantage is the long arm of a federal law, which would make state lines ineffective and would give warning to thieves to "lay off."

There is good reason for the Canadian cattlemen's hope of checking cattle stealing, with Mounted Police on the job. Stockmen of our own country will be just as hopeful when they get similar federal co-operation in the form of the McCarran national animal theft law.

CONSERVATION TEMPERED

CHIEF OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION Service H. H. Bennett has this to say in an article in *Soil Conservation*, the official organ of Soil Conservation Service:

"Social and economic factors must temper the ideal physical program, for conservation of soil is not an end in itself—it is not worth while simply because the principle of conservation seems desirable."

Those who have read Senate Document 199—that remarkable publication that brands all ranchers as soil despoilers—and those who have seen the constant overdrawn reference to "overgrazing" and "erosion" are glad to learn that the chief of the Soil Conservation Service takes this sensible view of conservation.

Use of the land is, of course, essential to live-stock raising. That economic factor, the stockman contends, must be considered along with conservation theories. Wise use, the stockman also contends, is essential in his business. He believes that in the great majority of cases he practices wise use. But he cannot prevent drought, or make rain. He cannot always immediately adjust to carrying capacity when drought hits hard. But when normalcy prevails, he believes the ranges are as good as ever.

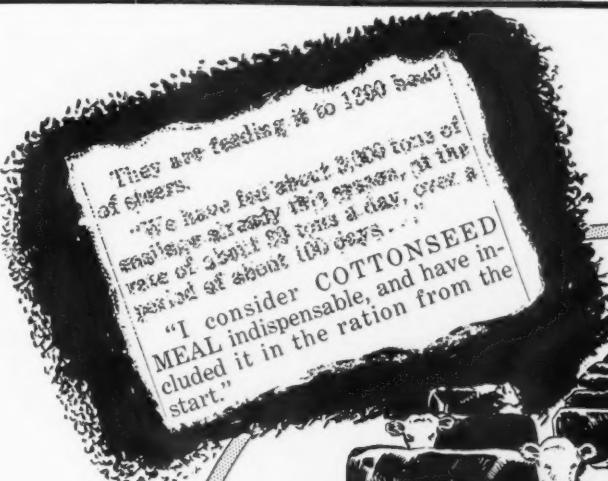
Look at the government range condition reports. Moisture the past year has brought condition back to 87 for the western range. This compares with 72 a couple of years ago, when drought was bad and "despoiling" and "overgrazing" propaganda was in full voice. It compares with 78.2 for the 1928-37 average; and 85.1 for the 1923-32 average. Condition percentages are now recorded as high as 96 in Montana, for instance. Nevada and Idaho show 98; Utah, 89; Colorado and Oregon, 88.

If these figures do not reach the 100-mark in a good year, that is because that standard represents an ideal condition which rarely exists. We do not know how far back we should have to go to find it. But, again quoting Mr. Bennett:

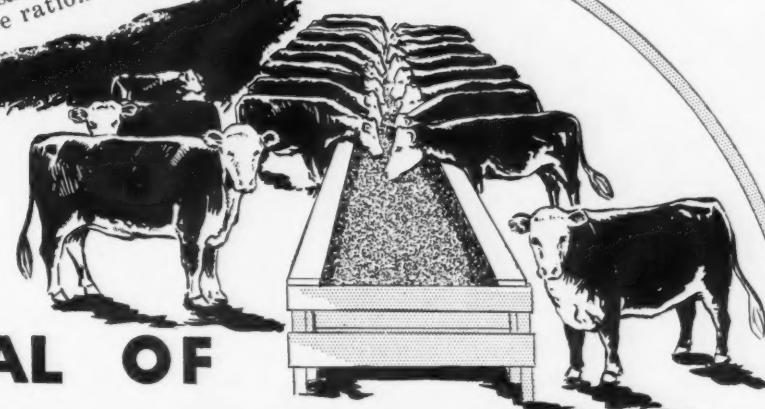
"The soil conservation program is possessed of human consideration; it does not seek mere abstract, inanimate permanence of land."

Now, if only all the other officials and conservationists could view the situation in the same light!





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GOVERNMENT

WASHINGTON NOTES

No REFERENDUM ON CORN marketing quotas will be held this year. Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace announced that the crop board corn estimate and the corn carry-over indicate an October 1 supply of 2,886,000,000 bushels—a supply not in excess of the 2,913,000,000-bushel figure that would have called for a referendum. August 1 corn estimate of 2,566,000,000 bushels compares with a July 1 estimate of 2,482,000,000 bushels. Carryover of old corn was estimated as of October 1 at 320,000,000 bushels. The new farm act makes a marketing quota referendum mandatory if the August 1 crop report indicated a total supply on October 1 above 110 per cent of the normal supply—normal domestic consumption and exports. With no quota possible this year, growers are free to sell all the corn crop they produce.

* * *

The National Emergency Council has reported on economic conditions in the South. President Roosevelt's view is that the South is the "nation's No. 1 economic problem," and the report bears out this view. The report said that northern producers and distributors are losing profits and northern workers are losing work "because the South cannot afford to buy their goods." The report sets forth, according to the *United Press*, that a large proportion of the South's population is living close to the poverty line; that living quarters are woefully inadequate; that neither on farms nor in factories is there certainty of continued employment, and that freight rate differentials hamper expansion of the South's industries.

* * *

Amendment to the federal meat inspection act passed in the closing days of the last session of Congress establishes strict control of interstate shipment of farm-, dealer-, and butcher-slaughtered animals and processed meat products. The *National Provisioner*, in explaining the amendment, says that "under the original act, exemption from inspection was granted for any animals slaughtered by a farmer on the farm and also to retail butchers and dealers supplying customers in other states. The effect of the amendment is to confine interstate shipments of fresh meats by retail dealers to a limited amount weekly. Dealers may ship uninspected meat products interstate to no one but consumers. Farmers cannot take meat to locker plants for curing, making sausage, etc., and then ship these products interstate under farmer exemption. In other words, the law now confines farmer and dealer traffic in meats more largely within state lines."

Secretary Wallace is working on a proposal to place 100,000,000 bushels of American wheat in world markets by means of an export subsidy, according to press items. The competitive situation developing in the world's grain markets, and prospects of a record breaking surplus of American wheat and declining domestic prices, were said to have influenced the undertaking. . . . The press is also again carrying items about negotiations for a world ever-normal granary to provide a "fair distribution" of wheat exports. Dr. A. G. Black, chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, made such proposal for wheat at the International Wheat Conference in London in July.

* * *

Secretary of State Cordell Hull recently announced conclusion of a reciprocal trade agreement between the United States and Ecuador. Ecuador's concessions include a 50 per cent cut in hog lard and wheat flour duties. . . . Negotiations of a trade treaty with Venezuela was recently announced. . . . A commercial agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union was recently entered into, calling for continuation by the United States to accord to Soviet Union commerce unconditional most-favored-nation treatment, except in coal, and, on the part of the Soviet Union, the intention of purchasing during the next 12 months American goods to the value of at least \$40,000,000.

* * *

Plans have been announced for a 1939 AAA program expected to be the most expensive yet undertaken, possibly totaling more than \$750,000,000, including an estimated \$450,000,000 in soil conservation benefit payments; \$212,000,000 in price-adjustment payments; \$75,000,000 to \$100,000,000 in surplus commodities removal; \$50,000,000 in direct aid, and an undetermined amount in administration and the financing of crop loans. According to Secretary Wallace, the new program would be mapped along virtually the same line as this year, as 100 farmer representatives meeting in Washington recently with AAA officials recommended that the 1939 program "should not be changed materially."

* * *

Purchases announced recently by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation: Surplus fresh snap beans during the present production season; 52,000,000 pounds of surplus butter before June 30, 1939; 1,000,000 barrels of wheat flour (2,902,225 barrels of wheat products recently purchased); approximately 50 per cent of the surplus stock of canned tomatoes from 1937 crop in the Ozark area of Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma; 50,000,000 pounds of surplus dry skim milk during the current fiscal

year; 11,000 tons of California raisins by October 1 (15,000 tons were purchased a month or so ago).

* * *

Community refrigeration plants will be financed by the Rural Electrification Administration. As a starter, \$15,000 of federal money has been allotted to the Pioneer Rural Electric Co-operative for the erection of a plant near Piqua, Ohio. The co-operative will lend the money to members and customers who will operate the plant. . . . REA plans to encourage formation of farmer organizations for construction of electric power distribution lines by lending \$140,000,000 to such farm groups during the fiscal year.

* * *

Roy M. Green has resigned as manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to become general agent of the FCA for the district embracing Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. Leroy K. Smith, Nebraska wheat farmer, is acting manager to succeed Mr. Green. . . . George E. Weaver, rancher of Log-cabin, Colorado, has been appointed regional field representative for the AAA range conservation program.

* * *

New deadlines for application for crop insurance on 1939 winter wheat are November 30 for California, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, and August 31 for other states.

* * *

Reporting on a study of laws passed by various countries to prevent dumping of foreign goods within their borders, the Federal Trade Commission recently disclosed that 40 countries, including the United States, have created an intricate network of "anti-dumping" laws operating against world trade. Retaliatory and "spite" duties, currency control laws, prejudicial transportation arrangements, and measures to protect industries from trusts in foreign countries were cited as examples.

* * *

Farmers of the nation are enjoying a level of living materially higher than in 1930, according to a sample survey by the Bureau of the Census of 3,000 farms in 40 states. Seven out of every ten farms had automobiles, six had radios, and four were lighted by electricity. Three farms out of every nine had water piped into the dwelling and, on two of these, into a bathroom. Three out of eight had telephones, one out of three had tractors, and one out of four had a motor truck. . . . In the same survey it was found that one farmer in three has an income from non-farm sources. Average return for such farm operators is equal to about three-fourths of the average income from the farms themselves. In a special census monograph, "Short Time Farming in the United States," it was found that there were about 2,000,000 farmers who performed work off their farms for pay.

MARKETS

LIVE STOCK VALUES HOLD WELL IN SLUMP

PARTICIPATION IN THE GENERAL SLUMP in commodity values by live stock does not require the services of an apologist. Invariably the tail goes with the hide. Fortunately, the labor racketeer has been excluded from the meat processing sphere; otherwise a debacle would have been possible. A hog butcher strike at Chicago late in July was largely responsible for a dollar break in that market, only five small concerns being involved. All things considered, as the newspaper columnists have a habit of reiterating, the live-stock arm of commerce has fared well. Every other phase of agricultural production has been seriously involved, from cotton to cabbage, and it is a singular fact that, with the exception of live stock, government support has been generously extended. Only the sheepman has received succor, in the shape of a wool loan that merely pegged prices at a ruinous level and an expenditure of millions for purchasing floor stocks of clothing for gratuitous distribution. A mountain of dairy products necessitated government aid, but, as more butter was acquired, open market prices sank to lower levels. Now the cheese maker is appealing for relief. Every industry, handicapped by labor exactions, taxes of various kinds, and inability to get capital necessary to carry on, has been hit hard. Automobile sales are 50 per cent under 1937, the hide market is stagnant, and wool in need of pulmotor action. Political activity, uncertainty as to the composition and policy of the next Congress are disconcerting influences.

Stocks Low

Fortunately meat stocks on packers' floors are low; otherwise the merchandising structure would have been aggravated. The out-of-storage movement during July accentuated this, enabling packers to reduce inventories. On August 1 only 477,314,000 pounds of meat were on hand—the smallest on record and the second lightest for the period—comparing with 515,527,000 pounds on July 1—a shrinkage for the month of about 1,200,000 pounds daily. A year ago the storage holding was 578,647,000 pounds; the previous five-year average on August 1 was 661,826,000 pounds. As this liquidation has been accomplished despite continued generous imports of European pork and South American canned meats, domestic consumption has been well maintained. The bulk of the current holding is pork—379,033,000 pounds, compared with 417,704,000 pounds last year and a previous five-year average of

546,206,000 pounds. Beef stocks are low—35,965,000 pounds, compared with 51,466,000 pounds last year and a previous five-year average of 49,445,000 pounds. In view of substantial June and July hog slaughter, the statement is encouraging. Present indications are that this season's beef accumulation will be light; that of pork and lard substantially larger than last, as the new hog crop is estimated up 15 to 25 per cent.

Anything Happens

A stock-yard axiom is that "anything may happen"—and it usually does. Cattle feeders have not been seriously hurt by a depreciation ranging from 25 cents to \$1 per cwt. late in July and early August. This represented adjustment rather than depreciation. The \$13 quotation disappeared temporarily at least, although the Chicago top held at \$12.50. A notable feat in price topping was the performance of Fred M. Attebury, of Nebraska, who sold 21 loads in that notch without a break, beating his previous record last year with 14 straight tops. Only one other feeder made the \$13 grade, and few steers sold above \$12.25. Otherwise that feature of the market would have been impossible. Even at the high time the great bulk of the fed steers, all weights, went over the scales in a range of \$9.50 to \$11.75. Depreciation was most marked in short-feds and warmed-up light steers, the counterfeit type getting obviously out of line with the long-fed high dressers, due to strenuous efforts by killers to hold the top down. The result was that low-dressing, nondescript carcasses cost as much on the hooks as choice bullocks. Realization of this prompted killers to apply pressure. As usual in these emergencies, steers in the feed-lot 60 to 90 days were far more profitable than the 9-to 10-month fed delegation, especially as the former were acquired at prices that insured wide margins, while many of the long-feds sold only \$1 above first cost—some even less.

Grass Beef Withheld

All through July and August killers had access to a steer run grading good to prime. Cattle selling at \$10.50 to \$11.50 were good enough for any trade. Scarcity of choice heavy steers, 1,400 pounds up, maintained them on a \$12 to \$12.65 basis, the last run of the Holly "sugar" cattle selling in that range. Had a few more big steers been available, severe penalties would have been imposed, as only a modicum can be absorbed. An Ohio feeder marketed during the period a long string of 1,400- to 1,575-pound bullocks of Sand Hill (Nebraska) origin, for which New York kosher buyers paid \$12.50 to \$12.65. Necessarily they carried quality and fin-

ish in the superlative degree. Choice yearlings made \$12 to \$12.50, eastern killers taking them owing to lack of bigger cattle. Up to this writing, low-grade beef has been relatively if not actually scarce, lush pastures holding grass cattle back. Kansas and Oklahoma were practically the sole source of grass beef supply, only odd lots reaching Chicago from the Northwest. The early August break had the logical effect of dislodging dry-lot cattle, as feeders were suspicious of the June and early July advance, and, as values of other commodities cracked, suspicious of what the future has in store, retaining vivid recollection of what happened late in 1937.

Rule Reversed

All the information available suggests that long-fed steers have been closely marketed. Liquidation earlier in the year in anticipation of beef superabundance at this season was responsible. Ordinarily cheap corn has a tendency to hold cattle back; this time the rule was reversed. Steer market performance from September to November depends wholly on the volume of grass beef dumped into the market hopper, and, if reports from the trans-Missouri region deserve credence, tonnage will be the lowest in half a decade. Trade scouts returning from the central and northwestern sections confirm this forecast, which can only be interpreted as meaning that killers will depend on the residue of the long-fed crop and such cattle as are being pushed along on corn. Assuming that consumption is maintained, no sharp decline is anticipated unless some fortuitous circumstance develops. A significant, irrefragable fact is that at no time has it been necessary to carry fat steers overnight on the Chicago market. When the trading basis has been reached on any session, the scaleward movement has been speedy, and during the August hot spell killers paid for tons of water-fill, which added materially to dressed cost. Not infrequently steers

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have carried more heft over the stock-yard scale than home weights. The average feeder can take a slight decline without expostulation, but he fairly gloats over an abnormal fill.

Consumers Going Along

So far no squawk has come from the consumer camp over increased beef cost. Retailers, restaurateurs, and others in contact with the ultimate consumer have been audacious in boosting prices, running true to form. When the top at Chicago went to \$13, they advertised the fact to their clientele, leaving an impression that their stock cost somewhere near that basis. Representing a chunk of beef cut from a \$10 steer as \$13 product is little short of reprehensible, although that practice has the sanction of long custom. When hogs went down a greased set of price skids, dropping \$1.50 per cwt. from the July crest, pork loins, chops, and other fresh meat comprising the 16 per cent of the carcass evading cure were reduced correspondingly, consumers switched to porcine product and beef ran into keen competition, pork taking the position of the cheapest meat in the category of animal foods overnight and at a moment when beef sales were impeded by a rising scale of prices. To aggravate the situation, lamb was abundant, fish cheap, and poultry plentiful, winter turkey storage being dumped into summer resort consumption in million-pound drafts. Under such conditions the beef market was equal to a creditable performance.

Replacement Large

A 12 per cent increase in visible fed-cattle supply, compared with August, 1937, is the latest government emission, which reiterates previous estimates of a 15 per cent increase on January 1 and 20 per cent on April 1. The figures are confusing, failing to jibe with slaughter statistics, as during the first seven months of the current year the kill under federal inspection was but slightly larger than that of the corresponding period of 1937. As slaughter figures represent actual tabulation, the only logical inference is that replacement recently has been on a larger scale than the trade expects or believes. This replacement has run heavily to light cattle, not figuring in the immediate future supply, as killers have permitted feeders to take out few two-way fleshy steers and the country is not in a mood to acquire that type at beef prices. The government estimate credits the eastern portion of the Corn Belt, presumably east of the Mississippi, with an increase of 17 per cent over August, 1937; the western section, 8 per cent. However, the writer has no intention of protesting the figures, asserting, however, that, other than the stocker movement through certain market gateways, no known process of correctly estimating the number of cattle on feed has yet been devised. An actual count is impossible until killers make

returns to the B.A.I. The estimated number of cattle on feed by percentage comparison with August, 1937, follows: Ohio, 110; Indiana, 120; Illinois, 125; Iowa, 122; Missouri, 115; Nebraska, 100.

Zigzag Course

From here the fat-cattle market goes where? On a zigzag course. Visible supply of corn-fed steers is in the strongest hands in trade history, and, while holders are suspicious that the future may be pregnant with trouble, they are by no means alarmed. With respect to weight, the crop has been closely marketed, and yearlings do not make beef tonnage, which in the final analysis exerts a potent influence on prices. While there may be merit in packer contention that the housewife, in a collective sense, makes prices, she has no bargaining power on her side of the retailer's block. The salesman tells her what she must pay, and, refusing compliance, she must let his wares alone, which in the shopping process she frequently does. When she is required to pay steak prices for scraps of beef, she promptly switches. The test will come when and if any considerable quantity of grass beef arrives, and all the handwriting on the wall is that the fall surplus of that commodity is a closed chapter of trade history, at least until the western industry recuperates—a logically lengthy process. Assuming that weekly beef production finds its way with reasonable celerity into distributive channels, no debacle confronts cattle trade. Early frost would damage a considerable corn area, developing a demand for fleshy steers for salvage purposes.

As to female cattle, no excess supply impedes. The trans-Missouri region, having liquidated new cow herds to the dregs during drought and financial stringency, will load conservatively. Grass cows are now selling anywhere from \$5.50 to \$6.75 at Chicago; canners and cutters, at \$4 to \$5, and demand for the product is urgent. Fat heifers are worth \$9.50 to \$10.75, grassers from \$8.50 down, dairy snipes selling at \$6 to

\$6.50 readily. Seasonal demand for "hot dogs" and other types of sausage is responsible for a \$6 to \$6.75 bull market, mainly dairies and "dogs," odd beef-bred bulls realizing \$7.25 to \$8. The old-time mass of bovine junk is no longer available, although a demoralized market for butter, cheese, and other products warrants reduction in the dairy herds.

Slump Fails

Slight abatement of the stock-cattle boom early in August reflected a reaction in fat-cattle prices but was not severe in the cases of calves and light yearlings, for which beef makers show decided partiality. Many of them would be neither actual nor potential purchasers but for unprecedented production of all kinds of feed, roughage and grain. Consequently they are more interested in acquiring machinery to convert it into marketable product than actually making beef. The less weight a calf or yearling carries over the scales, the more money it realizes, quality reckoned with. At Chicago, southwestern bred calves are realizing \$9 to \$9.50, desirable packages selling at \$9.75 and \$9.90. Dearth of quality is making a \$7 to \$8 market for nondescripts—cattle that formerly went to cannery refuse feeders at \$4 to \$4.50, the latter being out of the market, apprehensive that they will be unable to secure their quota, some going to Fort Worth to buy Texas yearling wethers on the theory they are a better proposition. Interior, or cross-roads, stock-cattle markets invariably attract crowds of eager purchasers, speculators forwarding steers from central markets bagging substantial profits. Usually the stock-cattle market runs into mid-summer somnolence, at lower prices; on this occasion no symptom of subsidence is apparent. Thousands of potential buyers awaiting bargain sales are nursing discouragement. Illinois and Kansas feeders have gone as far afield as California, paying high freight charges for half-fat steers already conditioned sufficiently for Pacific Coast killers, costing them \$8 to \$8.25 per hundredweight over the scales.

Expansion in Swine

The swine industry is definitely in the early stage of the production expansion cycle. Just what the 1938 spring pig crop increase over 1937 is involves difference of opinion, but expanding slaughter during June, July, and August tells an eloquent story of enthusiasm in producing circles. Sow slaughter recently has been the largest in several years, every grass widow leaving a litter of pigs on her trail to the butcher. Additional evidence of increasing numbers is a premature August movement of underweight, immature shoats despite cheap feed, owners making an attempt to beat the train to the crossing. Hogs have been paying 100 per cent profits on their board bill, swelling bank accounts and



overshadowing the "manna" flowing from the federal treasury in the shape of "benefits," or whatever term is appropriate. A swelling hog supply is "pie" for packers, who need volume to pull them out of a sad predicament, the result of drought and depleted breeding herds. Scarcity of pork in recent years undoubtedly operated to the advantage of beef; increasing plenitude of that meat is an adverse influence, as pork is the "poor man's meat." This writer has made several week-end thousand-mile pilgrimages through Chicago's hinterland recently, finding pastures full of pigs, growers concerned over the winter market. Young sows are in demand everywhere; healthy feeding pigs are prize packages.

Underdogs

What may be considered excessive lamb production confronts the western sheepman. Both wool and lambs are the underdogs of live-stock production. Fat lambs are actually appraised below hogs, the low point of the season being uncovered at mid-August when \$8.25 to \$8.50 bought the bulk of range lambs at Chicago. The eastern crop will not disappear until well along in September. The Corn Belt, including Missouri, had not fairly started gathering late in August, and the Northwest has a full supply, carrying both weight and condition. "Pushing" lamb is apparently an impossible task, as consumption is largely restricted to three eastern states—New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania—and southern New England. The "Eat More Lamb" slogan is ineffective, but admonition to "grow more sheep" gets the agrarian ear. Despite increasing production, breeding stock is in demand, farmers paying \$8.25 per cwt. at Chicago for western ewe lambs wherever found flocks. The trade is apprehensive of a "big push" and lower prices for fat lambs during the month of September.

While fat lambs have slumped, the feeder end of the trade has developed with vigor. Feeders and fat lambs are selling as close together as two coats of paint. Feeders inaugurated the season by bidding 5½ cents on the range, got few, and moved the common price up to 6½ cents. At Chicago and Omaha, \$7.60 to \$7.85 are current prices for western throwouts, \$8 having been paid. Feeders who took on heavy lambs last fall were given a trimming, but physical conditions, together with improved breeding, put light lambs out of commission this season. Throwouts going to the country weigh 70 pounds or more. The northwestern crop is estimated at 10 per cent more than that of 1937, the increase being on the fat end. Texas lambs are worth \$5 to \$5.25 and are considered a good purchase, as the carcasses meet scant criticism in dressed circles if adequately finished.

INACTIVITY MARKS WOOL TRADE

BY J. E. P.

WOOL TRADE IS AS ACTIVE AS a hibernating bear. Manufacturers display no interest, buying merely from hand to mouth, and doing little of that. Government buying of clothing has failed to perk up the market, and trade scribes, recently bullish, have changed tone. At Boston, dealers assert that they are realizing 65 to 70 cents, clean basis, for choice fine wools; manufacturers, that 65 cents is their limit. Top makers say they can buy all the fine wools they need, scoured, at 60 to 63 cents.

Piece goods markets are droopy, both in woolens and worsteds. Foreign markets are firm, but quiet, awaiting the Australia opening. Drought in sections of that continent has materially reduced the clip.

At Boston, demand slackened all through August, and, as owners are unwilling to shade prices, what amounts to an impasse exists. In the case of territory wools, fine sold in a moderate way at mid-August for 64 to 67 cents, scoured, mostly 64 and 65 cents; graded three-eighths blood territory, at 59 to 61 cents. Original bag lines of fine territory wools cost 64 to 65 cents; three-eighths blood, 59 to 61 cents. Bids on this basis for sizeable lots were turned down. Texas twelve-months' wool was bid at 64 to 66 cents, holders deciding not to sell. Fleece wools are worth 29 to 32 cents in the grease when they can be sold. This condition is in striking contrast to a large volume of July business.

A considerable percentage of the wool in eastern lofts represents a carryover which has some distance to go before it

can pay out even original investment, not to speak of carrying charges. When the July spurt occurred, holders had hope of bailing out. Fabrics are not selling, and the only place wool can go is to the spinner. July purchases appear to have been made largely on an expectation basis and in excess of actual needs, on the theory that prices were low enough, which means that mills are fairly well covered against current and near-by requirements, the logical sequence being a dominant market meanwhile.

Government estimates the 1938 clip at 368,528,000 pounds, about 2,000,000 pounds more than 1937, and the same gain over the previous five-year average. The estimated number of sheep shorn this year is 46,632,000 head, about 600,000 head or 1.3 per cent more than last year. Average weight per fleece is put at 7.90 pounds, against 7.97 pounds last year.

Shorn wool production in the western sheep states this year is estimated at 269,470,000 pounds, with an average weight per sheep shorn of 8.29 pounds, compared with 266,098,000 pounds last year, when the average fleece weight was 8.26 pounds. Texas production this year is estimated at 76,903,000 pounds, or 1,000,000 pounds more than 1937.

The 1938 estimate includes an allowance for fall wool to be shorn in Texas and California and the entire year at commercial feeding stations. The allowance for fall wool in Texas this year is 9,270,000 pounds compared with 10,815,000 pounds last year; in California it is 3,439,000 pounds this year compared with 3,702,000 pounds in 1937.

Mill buying of raw wool is strictly on a hand-to-mouth basis—a condition that may stimulate another buying spurt in the near future.

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CHICAGO WHOLESALE WESTERN DRESSED MEAT PRICES

FRESH BEEF AND VEAL—	Aug 15, 1938	July 15, 1938	Aug. 2, 1937
Steers—Choice (700 lbs. up)	\$16.00-17.50	\$16.50-18.00	\$23.00-24.00
Steers—Good	14.00-16.00	15.00-16.50	20.00-23.00
Steers—Choice (500-700 lbs.)	16.00-17.50	16.00-18.00	23.00-24.50
Steers—Good	14.00-16.00	15.00-16.50	19.50-23.50
Yearling Steers—Choice	16.00-17.50	16.00-17.50	23.50-24.50
Yearling Steers—Good	14.00-16.00	15.00-16.00	20.50-23.50
Cows—Good	11.00-11.50	12.50-13.00	14.00-16.00
Vealers—Choice	15.00-16.00	14.00-15.00	17.00-18.00
Vealers—Good	14.00-15.00	13.00-14.00	16.00-17.00
FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON—			
Spring Lambs—Choice (all weights)	15.00-17.00	18.50-20.00	22.00-23.00
Spring Lambs—Good	13.00-15.00	16.50-18.50	21.00-22.00
Yearling Lambs—Good (all weights)	11.50-13.50	13.00-15.00	-----
Ewes—Good	8.00- 9.00	9.00-10.00	10.50-11.50
FRESH PORK CUTS—			
Loins—8-12 lb. average	18.00-19.50	22.00-24.00	28.00-32.00

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK PRICES

	Aug 15, 1938	July 15, 1938	Aug. 2, 1937
Slaughter Steers—Ch. (1,100-1,500 lbs.)	\$10.00-11.50	\$10.25-12.00	\$15.50-16.25
Slaughter Steers—Good	9.00-10.25	9.25-10.50	12.25-15.50
Slaughter Steers—Ch. (900-1,100 lbs.)	10.00-11.00	10.25-12.00	15.00-16.25
Slaughter Steers—Good	8.75-10.00	9.00-10.25	12.25-15.50
Slaughter Steers—Med. (750 lbs. up)	7.50- 9.00	7.50- 9.50	9.50-12.50*
Fed Young Steers—Good-Choice	8.75-10.75	9.00-11.50	11.50-16.00
Heifers—Good-Choice	8.25-10.50	8.75-11.00	11.75-15.75
Cows—Good	6.25- 7.00	7.00- 7.75	7.75- 9.50
Vealers—Good-Choice	8.50-10.75	8.00-10.00	-----
Calves—Good-Choice	6.50- 8.00	6.50- 8.00	8.00-11.50
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Good-Choice	7.00- 9.75	7.25- 9.25	8.00-11.50
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Com.-Med.	6.25- 7.50	6.25- 7.25	6.50- 8.00
Hogs—Medium Weights (200-250 lbs.)	8.50- 8.75	9.70-10.15	12.65-13.30
Spring Lambs—Good-Choice	7.85- 8.35	8.65- 9.65	10.75-11.75
Yearling Wethers—Good-Choice (shorn)	6.00- 7.00	-----	-----
Ewes—Good-Choice	3.25- 3.75†	3.00- 3.50†	4.50- 5.75
*900 lbs. up. †Shorn.			

LIVE STOCK AT STOCK YARDS

RECEIPTS—	July		First Seven Months	
	1938	1937	1938	1937
TOTAL SHIPMENTS—				
Cattle*	463,789	468,295	2,870,995	2,944,066
Calves	194,771	191,710	1,216,786	1,194,730
Hogs	444,079	365,694	4,007,870	3,825,488
Sheep	992,146	1,012,169	5,962,025	5,926,009
STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS—				
Cattle*	200,646	190,406	1,188,132	1,126,995
Calves	40,986	32,902	245,899	232,303
Hogs	31,827	31,271	257,096	226,976
Sheep	177,254	185,033	882,442	799,266
SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION—				
Cattle*	820,031	790,020	5,511,974	5,577,239
Calves	436,265	519,826	3,237,095	3,760,870
Hogs	2,253,530	1,643,112	19,478,077	18,055,894
Sheep	1,461,255	1,390,365	10,324,788	9,847,630

*Exclusive of calves. †Includes stockers and feeders

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

Commodity in Pounds	Aug. 1 1938†	July 1 1938	Aug. 1 1937	Five-Year Average
Frozen beef	24,124,000	23,343,000	34,105,000	32,476,000
Cured beef*	11,841,000	10,387,000	17,361,000	16,969,000
Lamb and mutton	1,971,000	2,148,000	1,840,000	1,708,000
Frozen pork	98,103,000	118,212,000	143,668,000	146,432,000
Dry salt pork*	81,966,000	77,977,000	74,645,000	93,494,000
Pickled pork*	198,964,000	221,515,000	248,960,000	306,280,000
Miscellaneous	60,345,000	61,945,000	58,070,000	64,467,000
Total meats	477,814,000	515,527,000	578,649,000	661,826,000
Lard	123,649,000	126,066,000	156,959,000	154,235,000
Frozen poultry	52,561,000	53,432,000	70,040,000	50,079,000
Creamery butter	172,505,000	120,351,000	123,863,000	127,286,000
Eggs (case equivalent)....	10,274,000	10,212,000	13,486,000	12,081,000

*Cured or in process of cure. †Subject to revision.

HIDE TRADE EMERGING

FROM ITS RUT

BY J. E. P.

HIDE TRADE HAS EMERGED from the recent rut, current take-off is being absorbed, and packers' holdings are down to normal. They are not crowding the market, holding, in fact, for higher prices.

July and August butt-brand steers are selling already at 11½ cents; heavy Texas, at the same price. June and July light Texas are worth 10½ cents. July and August spready native steer hides have reached 12 cents. In the East, July butt-brands and Colorados are selling at 11½ to 12 cents—an advance at which sole-leather tanners are balking.

Activity on the Pacific Coast is attributed to Japan.

Light native cow hides are in demand, July and August salting at 11 to 11½ cents.

Leather markets are quiet, reflecting the between-seasons position of the shoe industry. Leather inventories are low. Advance since the low spot is 30 per cent. Visible stocks equal an 8.9 months' supply, compared with 8.2 months on June 1.

BEGINNING TO SQUEAK

(Continued from page 5)

promising bunch of calves? Next spring they will be fat at 650 to 750 pounds just when killers need them."

Calf-Growing Popular

In the Mineral Point section of Wisconsin, where fat steers bought in Omaha at the rise of grass were grazed through the summer and sent to Chicago in the fall by the thousands a few years ago, calf growing is rapidly coming into vogue. That generation of summer graziers went broke; a minority that stuck to cows survived. One Jacob Frantz is growing his forty-second crop of Hereford calves, having amassed moderate wealth in a lifetime. He figures he can keep a cow the year round on grass and hay for \$2 per month and has personal opulence to prove his assertion, as the calf is worth close to \$40 this season. Newcomers are entering the terrain with similar intent. Ernest Graber, of Mineral Point, running 114 Hereford cows, has a 96 per cent calf crop this year, confining his operations to breeding beef prospects. Several Chicago and Milwaukee men are founding small herds on an experimental basis. Nowhere else on this mundane sphere can a cow be carried for less money or a better calf raised than on Mineral Point grass.

In an effort to beat rising stocker cost, farmer feeders are buying Holstein calves to feed out early next spring before the regular beef-bred run of yearlings materializes. "Force-feed them, get to market early at light weight, and

buyers do the rest," said one farmer with in excess of 100 head in a pasture, with ground oats and barley. Feeding sheep oats, not worth threshing at current prices, is common. Feeders are riding the country with trucks, picking up every calf showing beef color and type, which accounts in a measure for sharp decreases in veal tannage. Assuming that the long period of cheap western stock cattle is a matter of history, this digression from standard milk production in this region is apparently sound in an economic sense. The same trend is detected in northeastern Iowa, George Kennedy, of West Branch—where Hoover ran barefooted as a kid—having accumulated a herd of 300 white-face cows, his annual running cost figuring \$15 per head, utilization of stalk fields during the fall and winter being his stand-by. Of course a cattle business of this nature is possible only on cheap, rough grazing land, of which there is an incredible acreage in the upper Mississippi Valley. Skeptics assert that it "can't be done." Proof is found in the fact that it is being done.

Not Hurtful to West

This development conceals nothing inimical to western commercial cattle breeders. Practically none of the calves grown will go into the stocker market, and cow herds will necessarily be restricted in numbers. Investment cost is considerable, the purpose of those engaging being to grow baby beef yearlings from start to finish. Utilization of grass, roughage, and silage is the primary purpose, these crops having little or no sale value. Various mixtures are going into silos, a popular combination being green alfalfa hay with blackstrap molasses, one ton to 80 pounds. Heifer calves fattened in Wisconsin last winter with a large proportion of this roughage topped the Chicago market regularly. The average farmer figuring on cattle means dairy cows, the banker putting up the money being similarly minded. Growing beef cattle requires capital and time, even when the increase goes to market at the light yearling stage; the aforesaid farmer must travel a short route to the money, meaning a weekly milk check. The area adapted to beef growing is not big, that practice out of place on arable productive acreage. The plan is feasible, but relatively few will carry it out.

With sheep the problem is simple. A band of ewes calls for no serious investment; a purebred ram does not necessitate a loan. Two crops annually—wool and lambs—insure speedy returns. Demand for ovine breeding stock is broad, farmers taking 70-pound ewe lambs at \$8.25 per cwt. Lambs can be grown profitably on arable land, require little labor, and involve no heavy feed bill. Increasing farm flocks should cause concern in western circles, as the native crop comes in competition with westerns at a period when the latter must move.

Although not endowed with the gaseous capacity of goats, sheep consume feed cattle ignore, and, but for the canine menace, would increase in numbers even more rapidly. The sheep production cycle is short, the habitat of the species nation-wide. A band of ewes can be profitably maintained in sections where beef cattle would starve, and an average farm can carry a flock of 100 head at no appreciable expense. With Texas in high production and the Appalachian region showing distinct partiality for sheep husbandry, and no immediate prospect of expanding consumption of the product, the "Grow More Sheep" slogan could be profitably consigned to the cannery.

STOCKMEN'S BOOKSHELF

FIRE SAFEGUARDS FOR THE FARM. Farmers' Bulletin 1643. Address Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. The bulletin suggests that a pound or more of common salt to each gallon of water in fire pails will usually prevent freezing and mosquito breeding. The suggestion is also made that when a farm building is at some distance from a water tank, a barrel holding 50 gallons or more of this strength brine is a valuable supplement to fire pails.

SAVE THE RUNOFF is the title of the bulletin by Chester D. Leonard, Colorado conservation engineer for the AAA, published by Colorado State College Extension Service and obtainable from local county agricultural extension agents in Colorado. Location and preparation of dam sites, building the dam, the spillway, protection of dams, Colorado state law

requirements, diversion ditches and water spreading, pasture contours and pasture terracing are discussed in the bulletin.

YEARBOOK OF AGRICULTURE, 1938. Address Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. Soil is the theme of the new agriculture yearbook. It is in five parts. Part 1, "The Nation and the Soil," deals with public purposes in soil use and with problems, causes, and remedies. Part 2, "The Farmer and the Soil," discusses tillage, fertility, erosion control, irrigation, and drainage. Part 3 covers relationships between the soil and plants. Part 4 deals with the fundamentals of soil science. Part 5 is a survey and description of the enormous variety of soils in this country, accompanied by a map. The 1938 yearbook is intended for two classes of readers: Intelligent farmers with a practical background but in most cases little theoretical knowledge, and students, teachers, and scientific workers in need of more technical information than the first group.

REFRIGERATED FOOD LOCKERS, A NEW CO-OPERATIVE SERVICE, by L. B. Mann. Circular No. c-107, May, 1938. Address Farm Credit Administration, Co-operative Division, Washington, D. C. The circular states that "the refrigerator-locker movement has grown rapidly, has attracted wide interest, and is performing an economic service. A conservative appraisal of the present development indicates that there are possibilities in this movement which, under proper management and leadership, might materially change the processing and distribution of meat and other perishable foods in the United States."

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LARGEST LAMB CROP ON RECORD ESTIMATED

LARGEST LAMB CROP ON RECORD—32,221,000 head—is reported for 1938 by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The production is about 5 per cent larger than in 1937, about 2,000,000 head, or nearly 7 per cent, greater than the 1933-37 average, and 606,000 head larger than the previous record crop of 1931.

The increase is found in the western sheep states, the native sheep states having a smaller crop than last year. Estimated percentage lamb crop this year was 88.7, the largest in 15 years of estimates.

The native states' lamb crop of 11,029,000 head compares with 11,329,000 head in 1937. The percentage lamb crop was smaller than last year in nearly all the native states.

In the western states the crop of 21,192,000 head was about 9 per cent larger than the 18,955,000 head in 1937 and the largest on record. Weather and feed conditions in the western sheep states was on the whole the most favorable in recent years. Death losses were relatively small, as was the loss of lambs since docking counts were made. Lambs from this area are expected to be above the average in weight.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

CATTLE IMPORTS FOR BREEDING—

	Jan.-June 1938 (Head)	Jan.-June 1937 (Head)
Canada.....	4,443	5,274
Irish Free State, Mexico, United Kingdom.....	401	791

OTHER EDIBLE CATTLE IMPORTS—

Canada (over 700 lbs.).....	25,145	87,777
(175-700 lbs.).....	2,291	5,909
(under 175 lbs.).....	28,036	57,278
Mexico (over 700 lbs.).....	25,628	23,530
(175-700 lbs.).....	159,172	132,564
(under 175 lbs.).....	1,865	1,198
Other Countries (over 700 lbs.).....	39	51
(175-700 lbs.).....	406	532
(under 175 lbs.).....	1	1

HOG IMPORTS—

Except for breeding.....	172	55,102
	(Pounds)	(Pounds)

MEAT IMPORTS—

Beef, fresh.....	807,619	1,854,593
Veal, fresh.....	59,411	85,355
Beef and veal, pickled or cured.....	573,139	671,774
Beef, canned.....	38,947,441	42,741,749
Total beef and veal.....	40,387,610	45,353,471
Pork, fresh.....	2,678,306	10,568,853
Hams, shoulders, and bacon.....	23,214,734	24,907,288
Pork, pickled, salted, and other.....	2,447,734	2,820,150
Total pork.....	28,340,774	38,296,291

MEAT EXPORTS—

Beef and veal, fresh.....	1,828,253	2,405,844
Beef, cured.....	3,248,462	2,800,179
Beef, canned.....	1,145,395	1,605,538
Total beef and veal.....	6,222,110	6,811,561
Fresh pork carcasses, loins, and other.....	4,607,838	2,087,440
Cumberland and Wiltshire sides.....	98,684	38,124
Hams and shoulders.....	27,120,484	18,682,486
Bacon.....	3,928,083	1,296,521
Pickled pork.....	6,506,385	4,139,157
Canned pork.....	4,490,269	3,998,177
Total pork.....	46,751,743	30,241,905
Lard.....	105,811,247	52,489,237
Sausage.....	1,210,242	1,507,877
Sausage ingredients.....	859,525	698,281

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT FARM INCOME-OUTGO

A SLIGHT INCREASE IN LOCAL market prices of all groups of farm products except grains raised the index of prices received by farmers to 95 per cent of their pre-war level from mid-June to mid-July, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The current index, however, was 30 points under the level of a year ago. Following are the average prices received by farmers on the products indicated, based on averages of reports from more than 9,000 correspondents throughout the United States:

Wheat, 60.8 cents per bushel; corn, 53.7 cents; oats, 24 cents; rye, 41.1 cents; potatoes, 65.5 cents per bushel; hay, \$7.11 per ton; tobacco, 24.5 cents per pound; hogs, \$8.56 per hundred pounds; beef cattle, \$6.74 per hundred-weight; veal calves, \$7.88 per hundred pounds; sheep, \$3.46 per hundred pounds; lambs, \$6.84 per hundred pounds; butter, 25.6 cents per pound; butterfat, 24.2 cents per pound; milk, wholesale, per hundred pounds, \$1.56; milk, retail, per quart, 10.3 cents; chickens, live, 15 cents per pound; eggs, 19.9 cents per dozen; wool, 18.7 cents per pound; milk cows, per head, \$56.70; horses, \$85.70; mules, \$102.10 a head.

While the index of prices received by farmers stands at 95 per cent of pre-war, prices paid by farmers, including interest and taxes, are at 128 per cent of their pre-war base, giving the farm dollar a purchasing power of 77 cents.

According to the findings of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the rate of farm wages now averages 120 per cent of pre-war, while the industrial wage level stands at 202.

CROP PROSPECTS IMPROVED IN SECOND ESTIMATE

CROP PROSPECTS IMPROVED IN July, and, according to the Crop Reporting Board, a number of the important field crops will yield above the excellent per-acre yields of last year. Practically all major field crops will equal or surpass per-acre yields of the previous decade.

Wheat at an indicated 955,989,000 bushels as of August 1 stands slightly above the large crops of 1931 and 1919 and about 5 per cent under the record crop of 1915. The corn indication of 2,566,221,000 bushels is about 11 per cent above the average of the 1927-36 period.

Prospects for the principal crops as seen by the government experts on August 1 follow (000 omitted):

	1938 (Indicated)	1937 (Production)
Corn (bu.).....	2,566,221	2,644,995
Wheat (bu.).....	955,989	873,993
Winter (bu.).....	688,458	685,102
Spring (bu.).....	267,531	188,891
Durum (bu.)....	41,148	27,791
Other (bu.).....	226,383	161,100
Oats (bu.).....	1,041,009	1,146,258
Barley (bu.).....	248,283	219,635
Rye (bu.).....	52,500	49,449
Buckwheat (bu.)....	7,406	6,777
Flaxseed (bu.).....	8,185	6,974
Hay, tame (tons)....	80,315	73,785
Hay, wild (tons)....	10,643	9,302
Hay, clover and timothy* (tons)....	27,717	24,335
Hay, alfalfa (tons).....	29,361	27,056
Beans, dry edible (100-lb. bags).....	14,252	15,839
Potatoes (bu.).....	385,515	393,289
Sugar beets (tons).....	11,138	8,749
Cotton (bales).....	11,988	18,946

*Excludes sweetclover and lespedeza.

FEEDSTUFF PRICES

Cottonseed cake and meal was quoted on August 17 at \$21 a ton, f. o. b. Texas points. Hay prices, carlot, on August 15, at Omaha were: Alfalfa-choice leafy, \$13 to \$14; No. 1, \$12.50 to \$13; standard leafy, \$11.50 to \$12.50; standard, \$10.50 to \$11.50; No. 2, \$9 to \$10; No. 3, \$7.50 to \$8.50; upland prairie—No. 1, \$9.50 to \$10.50; No. 2, \$9 to \$9.50; No. 3, \$7 to \$8.50; midland prairie—No. 1, \$8.50 to \$9.50; No. 2, \$7 to \$8; mixed—No. 1, \$9.50 to \$10; No. 2, \$8.50 to \$9.50; No. 3, \$7 to \$8.

FOREIGN

LIVE STOCK INTERESTS IN AUSTRALIA

BY A. C. MILLS

SOME INTERESTING STATISTICS relative to Australia's meat exports are published in the July number of the *Pastoral Review*. The following summary of these, showing shipments to all oversea ports during the two past financial years (July 1 to June 30) gives a fair idea of the importance of the trade to the live-stock industry generally:

	1936-37	1937-38
MUTTON—		
Carcasses (no.)	1,066,502	1,131,602
Pieces (lb.)	600,178	495,581
LAMB—		
Carcasses (no.)	4,992,744	5,195,892
Pieces (lb.)	1,145,547	758,321
BEEF—		
Quarters (no.)	1,320,353	1,686,952
Butts, loins (no.)	5,423	8,637
Other pieces (lb.)	3,163,423	2,868,892
Boned (lb.)	34,771,835	53,850,938
VEAL—		
Carcasses (no.)	5,694	6,264
Sides (no.)	9,362	6,820
Quarters (no.)	3,501	6,165
Pieces (lb.)	454,052	676,921
Boned (lb.)	7,633,160	13,502,197
PORK—		
Carcasses (no.)	233,636	279,235
Sides (no.)	34,420	41,093
Pieces (lb.)	2,482,090	2,372,361

It will be seen that while mutton and lamb exports remained fairly static, a very definite advance, as compared with the previous year, occurred in beef shipments. As a matter of fact, the increase has been progressive since 1935 and reflects the gradual recovery of northern beef cattle herds from the effects of the 1932-33 drought.

United Kingdom Market Important

The importance of the United Kingdom market is revealed when it is pointed out that 96.21 per cent of the mutton carcasses, 99.09 per cent of the lamb carcasses, and 92.18 per cent of the beef quarters shipped in 1937-38 were consigned to that country. Of the 130,000-odd quarters beef cleared to destinations other than in Great Britain, some 58,000 went to Mediterranean ports, mostly to fill British army and navy supply contracts, 15,000 to Singapore, and 40,500 to Japan. The Japanese total was nearly 100 per cent more than in 1936-37, assumably on account of greater military requirements due to the war in China. Manila, which used to import quite a considerable quantity of Australian beef, only took about 5,000 quarters last year.

Of the 1,686,952 quarters beef cleared in 1937-38, 1,275,612 were hard frozen and 411,340 shipped in a chilled condition. In other words, 24.4 per cent of the quarter beef output was chilled. To give a fuller picture of the development of the chilled beef trade, it may be stated that in 1936-37 the relative proportion was 280,469 quarters (21 per cent) and in 1935-36 it was 160,468 quarters (14 per cent).

It may be added in the above connec-

tion that it is anticipated that by 1940 at least 600,000 quarters will be shipped chilled each year—a total that should not be difficult to attain if climatic conditions at fattening time are reasonably favorable. Had it not been for the dry weather and consequent shortage of feed at the latter end of last summer, many more of the cattle treated at packing plants might have reached the chiller standard. The poor fattening season has been reflected in the quality of a large proportion of slaughter cattle this year. They have been killing exceptionally light, and the percentages that have been relegated to the second and third grades are high. This is causing a good deal of dissatisfaction among suppliers, but, as grading at packing plants is now under federal supervision, the export buyer cannot be blamed.

Northern packing plants are at present operating pretty well to capacity, slaughtering cattle for the export trade. The buying rate remains firm. For sup-

plies drawn from the Cannon Hill (Brisbane) Yards shippers have lately been paying from \$7.20 to \$7.70 per 100 pounds for best chiller steers, and from \$7 to \$7.20 for top freezers. Purchases made in the country in south Queensland range to \$7.20 per 100 pounds, delivered, for firsts, \$6.50 for seconds, and \$5.75 for thirds. In the central division the rate is \$6.50 to \$6.70 for firsts, \$5.75 to \$6 for seconds, and \$5 to \$5.30 for thirds. In north Queensland it is \$6.25, \$5.50, and \$4.80 for firsts, seconds, and thirds, respectively. For August delivery, when available supplies will be smaller, about 24 cents per 100 pounds all-round is being offered.

Little Left for Dainties

In passing it may be mentioned that the foregoing rates are about 72 cents per 100 pounds better than obtained in July, 1937. As such they probably place the average beef cattle producer above the bread line, though, taking into account his high costs and the interest burden imposed by previous years of low prices, they can leave little for the

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butter and other dainties. The fact that cattlemen are supposed to be doing so much better this year was used as an argument to bolster up a claim for higher wages in the grazing industry made by the Australian Workers' Union in the Queensland Industrial Court the other day. The court accepted the argument; for while it decided that there are no grounds for raising the pay of men engaged on sheep runs, it ordered an advance of 72 cents per week in the wage of employees on cattle properties. Under the new arbitration award, general station (ranch) hands, stock riders, cooks, etc., on cattle properties in north Queensland have to be paid \$15 per week; \$13.90 in south Queensland. Drovers traveling with cattle in the north will be paid \$22.30; in the south, \$20.10 per week. From this it will be seen that the poor cattlemen has to share what little prosperity comes his way with his employees.

The normal period of relative scarcity of fat cattle in the south of Australia is being made more pronounced this year by the dry conditions that prevailed over much of the states of New South Wales and Victoria during the late summer and early winter months. Some districts are still in urgent need of rain, and in those that have had decent falls feed is still very short. Light yardings have caused a sharp appreciation in values. Good to prime steers sold in the Sydney markets last week at from \$9 to \$9.60 a 100 pounds, and in the Melbourne yards the rate went as high as \$11 a hundred. Ten dollars and fifty cents per hundred has of late been a common figure in Vic-

toria. The cattle obviously are being bought for local consumption, not export. Supplies in the southern states are being supplemented to a small extent by shipments of chilled beef from Queensland.

Zebu Carcass Displayed

The recent display in a Melbourne butcher's shop of a body of beef derived from breeding a zebu bull with a grade Hereford cow recalls that experiments with that cross are being carried out in Queensland. It is some four or five years ago that a syndicate of northern cattlemen, working in conjunction with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, imported a few pure zebu bulls and heifers from the King Ranch in Texas. The purpose of the importation was to experiment in crossing the zebras with different British breeds to obtain and fix a type that would be more tick-resistant and do better under the trying tropical conditions of the low lying coastal areas of the far north than, say, Shorthorns or Herefords. The particular body of beef that was on view in Melbourne, though it was a first cross, gave little evidence of zebu blood. The flesh was very bright and the fat quite well distributed. The dressed carcass weighed just under 800 pounds, but unfortunately a comparable bullock of straight British stock was not killed at the same time, so it was not possible to say if there was weight advantage.

I gather from a member of the importing syndicate that a number of bullocks and steers carrying different percentages of zebu blood and bred under properly controlled conditions in the north are to be marketed next season. The outturn of these, and comparisons with the British breeds, should prove interesting. Such data as is available to date indicates that a quarter or eighth dash of zebu is of distinct benefit. Apart from almost complete immunity from tick worry, the calves appear to make quicker weight gains on natural feed.

FROM FOREIGN FIELDS

PRACTICALLY THE WHOLE OF northern Natal in the Union of South Africa has been hit by an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. An area 100 miles wide and 120 miles long, containing more than 300,000 head of cattle, was put in quarantine. The outbreak was described as a "national calamity." . . . Swedish authorities have declared officially that Sweden is again free of foot-and-mouth disease. Sweden had an outbreak of the disease in May. . . . It is reported that England may try out the vaccine virus recently developed on an experimental scale in Germany to combat foot-and-mouth disease.

* * *

A Bucharest company announces that it is preparing to produce tinned corned

beef, a product hitherto unknown in Rumania, for exportation. Orders have been received, it is claimed, from the United Kingdom, France, Czechoslovakia, and countries in the Levant which have previously bought this product from Argentina, Uruguay, and Australia.

* * *

Exports to the United States of Uruguayan canned beef during the second quarter of 1938 totaled 3,914,838 pounds—50 per cent of the 7,879,774 pounds in the same quarter of 1937. Canned beef exports to the United States for the first six months of this year are shown at 5,902,211 pounds—a 57 per cent drop from the half year's exports in 1937.

* * *

Emphasis upon activities concerned with the exportation of meat and meat products from Ethiopia is shown in announcement that meat packing plants are to be built and a new veterinary service inaugurated to study cattle diseases. The eventual plan of Italy is to improve meat quality and increase the quantity so that frozen and canned meat may be exported to the Kingdom. Present Ethiopian meat supply about meets the demand in the country.

* * *

A species of meat famine in Argentina, brought on by high prices, is being dealt with by presidential intervention in Buenos Aires through the sale of cheap meat supplied by the Argentine Corporation of Meat Producers without benefit of numerous middlemen.

* * *

World wheat production of 4,200,000,000 bushels is now indicated for the 1938-39 crop year, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The indicated crop, which excludes Soviet Russia and China, is 375,000,000 bushels above last year. Prospective world supplies are estimated at 4,850,000,000 bushels—about 475,000,000 bushels above those of 1937-38.

* * *

A minimum price of 80 cents a bushel has been set by the Canadian wheat board for wheat during the next crop year. The price will be for grade No. 1 northern, delivered at Fort William, other grades being fixed on the basis of the price for grade No. 1.

* * *

According to press dispatches, the Mexican government has rejected Secretary of State Cordell Hull's demand for arbitration of the dispute arising over the expropriation of American-owned farm lands in that country. . . . Sweeping control of foodstuffs markets and prices in Mexico has recently been delegated to a committee which is to function under the supervision of the Mexican Minister of National Economy. Provision is made for the equalization of foodstuffs prices by governmental purchases, storage, and sale.



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ROUND THE RANGE

WESTERN LIVE STOCK AND RANGE REPORT

THE HIGHEST CONDITION SINCE 1932 is reported for western ranges in the August 10 live-stock and range report, issued by the Denver regional live-stock office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The Great Plains sections that had poor feed a year ago now carry fair to good range feed. Condition of ranges was 87 per cent of normal, the same as the previous month, compared with 80 per cent a year ago, 72 per cent two years ago, and 78.2 per cent for the 1928-37 average. Prospects are that western range cattle will move to market showing good weights and finish. Sheep and lambs are in very good condition, showing the highest August 1 condition since 1932.

Summary by states:

Arizona.—Range conditions spotted; rains improved feed in some areas and others dry; normal August rains will make ample feed; browse good; cattle and sheep in fair to good condition.

California.—Range, pasture, and other feeds very good; lower range and pasture feeds matured and abundant; high ranges good; prospects for adequate range and pasture feed until fall rains; cattle in good condition and marketings rather heavy from early and intermediate sections; shipments out of state but small proportion of total sales; sheep in high condition; young ewe demand moderate; lambs from mountain areas moving to market in good flesh; feeder lambs coming in from Oregon and Nevada.

Colorado.—Range best since 1930; very good feed in mountain and western areas; generally good ranges and pastures in eastern sections; hay and feed crops good; cattle, sheep, and lambs in very good condition.

Idaho.—Ranges very good except in north; most lower ranges have good dry feed; hay and feed crops good but considerable hay damaged by rain; cattle, sheep, and lambs in very good condition; early lambs above average finish.

Kansas (western).—Pastures best in several years; feed prospects in general good; grasshopper damage in few dry spots; improved feed prospects and reduced cattle numbers reviving interest in cattle; cattle in very good flesh.

Montana.—Range feed very good; good growth native feed well matured; good seed crop; some grasshopper damage in eastern sections; hay and feed crops good; cattle in very good flesh; some tendency to hold in depleted areas; sheep and lambs in very good flesh; lambs heavier than last year.

Nebraska (western).—Ranges continue offering good quality grass; wild hay cutting almost complete; good yields in Sand Hills; feed better than average; forage prospects good; cattle good to excellent.

Nevada.—Range feed generally good to excellent; very good feed growth on

winter ranges; cattle and sheep will show good weight and finish at delivery time.

New Mexico.—Range feed greatly improved; few small dry areas in northeast and northwest; hay crops good; other feed crops depend on later rain; cattle, sheep, and lambs made good gains, lambs making normal weights.

North Dakota.—More than normal rain improved range and pasture; sufficient feed for late summer and fall grazing; live stock will go into winter in very good condition; feed adequate except small local areas in southern counties where grasshopper damage was most severe.

Oklahoma.—Range and pasture feeds good; good crops hay and other feeds; soil moisture little short in local western areas suffering grasshopper damage; stock in very good condition.

Oregon.—Ranges good; good dry feed on low ranges east of Cascades; west of Cascades pastures and ranges short; crop yields reduced; cattle will go to market in good flesh; sheep in very good condition; lambs made good gains.

South Dakota (western).—Ranges and pastures fair to good; feed damaged by grasshoppers in northwest; feed ample in Black Hills and south-central area; considerable grain cut for hay; cattle, sheep, and lambs in very good flesh; will be shipped early where feed prospects unfavorable.

Texas.—Range and feed well above average except in south Texas and small area in northwest; feed crops promise good yields on greatly increased acreage; cattle in very good flesh and made good gains except in south Texas; sheep and lambs in very good flesh; lambs heavier than last fall; July sheep and lamb shipments heavy following record movement in June; range feeds good to excellent in sheep section.

Utah.—Summer range feed good; good growth on lower and winter ranges; cattle and sheep in very good flesh; cattle for market and lambs making good gains.

Washington.—High ranges good; good growth feed on lower ranges; hot weather dried lower ranges; range feed, hay, and other feeds ample; some surplus east of Cascades; ranges, pastures, and feed crops west of Cascades poor; cattle in good flesh but show slight shrink in dry areas; early lambs going to market heavier than last year.

Wyoming.—Range feed good but matured and dried rapidly; very good feed on high ranges; good growth on winter ranges; some local grasshopper damage in east and northeast; hay and feed crops in very good condition; cattle, sheep, and lambs in very good condition.

BULLETINS IN BRIEF

EARLY ISSUANCE OF LONG-term grazing permits on more than 1,000,000 acres of federal range land in Moffat and Routt counties, Colorado, is

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planned by the Department of the Interior. The area, designated as Colorado District No. 6, is serving as a "test district," in which plans of administration will be worked out for subsequent application in the other 49 federal range areas in the West. . . . In a decision on an appeal against proposal of the Secretary of the Interior to make an exchange of land lying in a national forest for land situated within a Taylor Grazing District, the United States District Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia said that such an exchange should not be made because it would deprive the owner of a Taylor grazing license of legal rights to graze on the public lands. The court did not say a "vested right" had been established, but, say commentators on the decision, "it did go a long way and set up some new precedents in respect to legal claims of permittees or licensees to grazing rights."

* * *

Meat exhibit season is on, announces the National Live Stock and Meat Board. Opening officially at the Illinois Fair in Springfield, a continuous schedule has been arranged to reach its climax with an exhibit at the International Live

Stock Exposition in Chicago. Exhibitions showing the whole range of meat cuts, meat's healthful properties, and other forms of display, which will be of practical interest and value to persons in every walk of life, are planned. The board first started in the meat exhibit phase of its work in 1924. Last year a total of 49 exhibits were set up at livestock expositions, fairs, food shows, and conventions from Massachusetts to California.

* * *

Move of the carriers to cut wages of their employees 15 per cent was the subject of negotiations recently in Chicago. Result was announcement of railroad representatives of intention to request services of the federal mediation board. . . . Railroad wage rates, according to a pamphlet, "Railroads and Railroad Wage, 1938," issued by the carriers, are at the highest level in history. Wage rates are higher than in 1929, both in dollars and in real purchasing power. Railroad earnings, on the other hand, have shrunk this year to an average of less than one-half of 1 per cent for the industry as a whole, the booklet states, and in the first three months of 1938 the railroads have piled up a deficit of more than \$100,000,000. Current level of railway wages cannot be maintained under existing circumstances, the carriers state. . . . Press items say that a majority of the members of the Interstate Commerce Commission believes increase in railroad carrying charges will not benefit the roads substantially and may ultimately result in harm.

* * *

Comprehensive investigation of "sizes and weights of motor vehicles . . . classifications and maximum hours of service of employees of motor carriers and private carriers of property by motor vehicle" will be undertaken by the Interstate Commerce Commission. Authorized under Section 225 of the Motor Carriers Act, the results of the investigation will be transmitted to Congress with a "report on the need for federal regulation." The term "private carriers" applies to anyone who has his own goods hauled in his own truck.

* * *

Grasshoppers failed to make the anticipated invasion of the Great Plains this year, says a *United Press* story. Invasion of plague proportions had been anticipated early in the season, but rains and poison bran defeated the army. . . . New ways of fighting the pest: Ac-

cording to a Seattle, Washington, botanist, the grisly cobra plant, which lures insects down its hollow stalk and then kills the insects by the acids at the base of the stem; and the bee-fly, an importation from Argentina, which researchers in Canada's entomological department's laboratories hope to be able to acclimate and breed and release in sufficient hordes on the prairie province wheat fields to wipe out the grasshopper danger.

* * *

George H. Davis, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, head of a Kansas City grain company, and a cattleman, has been named president of the American Royal Live Stock Show, succeeding the late James C. Swift. A. M. Paterson is secretary. . . . Cash prizes totaling \$6,000 will be offered in the carlot cattle divisions at the American Royal, to be held in Kansas City October 15-22. Classifications include Hereford, Shorthorn, and Angus beef cattle and cover both feeder and fat cattle.

* * *

H. J. Gramlich, of the University of Nebraska, has been named to succeed F. W. Harding as secretary of the American Shorthorn Breeders' Association, Mr. Harding having requested that he be relieved, after 25 years of service, December 1. It is expected, in view of action already taken by the board, that Mr. Harding will continue with the association as manager of the export division.

* * *

Truck hauling of live stock to 68 public markets during the first half of 1938 totaled 16,962,898 head of cattle, calves, hogs, sheep, and horses, compared with 16,869,406 head in the first half of 1937 and 16,552,685 head in the like period of 1936. Less than half the live stock received came by rail.

* * *

One hundred thousand dollars cash premiums from all sources will be the approximate amount offered at the Pacific International Live Stock Exposition, to be held in Portland, Oregon, October 1-9. Breed divisions to participate are beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep and goats, swine, and heavy draft horses. The fat stock division will include individuals and carlots of cattle, sheep, and hogs. A horse show and rodeo are among the many special attractions.

* * *

Cash income from sales of farm products the first half of 1938, including government payments, is estimated by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics at \$3,341,000,000—13 per cent less than the amount received during the six-month period last year. The total includes \$275,000,000 in government payments, which was 22 per cent less than the money received from this source in the first half of last year. July-September cash farm income, including government payments, may be \$2,000,000,000.

RANCHES, large or small, for sale, exchange, or lease, in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, Montana, California, Canada, Central and South America, Africa, and islands of the sea. J. D. FREEMAN, Gunter Building, San Antonio, Texas.

FORT BELKNAP INDIAN RESERVATION, MONTANA

An area of 474,000 acres of the finest fenced grazing land with plenty of native grass and adequate water. Convenient shipping points adjoining range. An abundance of winter feed raised on irrigated land. Ranges will be placed under permit for five-year period commencing January 1, 1939. Interested parties write Rufus Warrior, Secretary, Fort Belknap Community Council through F. W. Boyd, Superintendent, Fort Belknap Agency, Harlem, Montana.

CATTLE WANTED

If you want to sell two to twenty carloads of calves, yearlings, twos, both sexes, or stocker cows, to Iowa corn growers, please send full description.

FRED CHANDLER, Chariton, Iowa.

HARDY RECLEANED ALFALFA SEED, \$12.50; Grimm Alfalfa, \$13.40; White Sweet Clover, \$3.00. All 60-lb. bushel, track, Concordia. Return seed if not satisfied. Geo. Bowman, Concordia, Kansas.

FOR SALE OR LEASE—31,000 acres privately owned range land. Abundance of water. One thousand acres cultivated lands. Winter and summer range for 5,000 head of cattle. Address: Preston Nutter Corporation, 105 E. So. Temple St., Salt Lake City, Utah.

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